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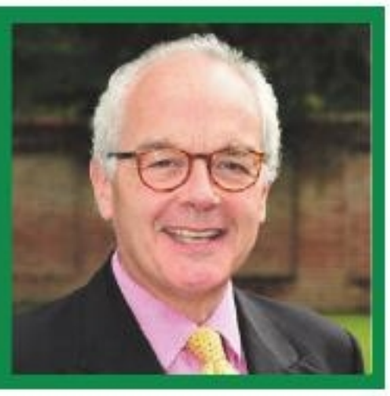

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FREE TAKE ONE

DEVOLUTION PLANS LABELLED 'FARCICAL'

Labour unhappy with changes to bus fares

BASINGSTOKE and Deane's inclusion in proposals to form a combined authority for Hampshire could be in doubt after the borough's Labour group raised concerns over suggestions that concessionary bus pass holders could be charged for fares.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

As previously reported in the Observer the county council and Hampshire's 11 borough and three unitary authorities are currently in discussions to become the recipients of more powers and funding handed down from central government.

If given the green light, the move would see more control and responsibilities on services such as transport and education devolved down to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

A prospectus produced as part of the proposal refers to Hampshire County Council's 2014 Bus Subsidy Review, which states "concessionary pass-holders would potentially be happy to contribute" to journey costs.

But with just 211 of the 3,217 consultation respondents supporting the idea, Norden councillor Laura James has labelled the findings as "farcical" and warned that the topic was a "red line issue" for the Labour group's councillors.

"We couldn't possibly support devolution if that's what it includes," said Cllr James.

"To treat the findings as a clear mandate, when they're not, is just appalling really and there are many normal people who won't support this and can't afford an increase.

"The elderly people who rely on these services on a daily basis certainly aren't saying that to us, so I was really upset to see this."

There are currently 257,611 concessionary travel pass holders in Hampshire, with both elderly and disabled residents benefiting from free travel as part of the current programme.

The borough council contributes more than £700,000 a year to subsidise public transport in Basingstoke and Deane, with Hampshire County Council paying around £404,000.

And Cllr James, who will lead a motion to keep concessionary fares free at a full council meeting at the council's civic offices in London Road this evening, spoke of her disappointment that the matter had been included.

• *Continues on page 2*

Santa Claus comes to town

FATHER Christmas made an appearance at Festival Place on Sunday for the shopping centre's annual Santa Parade.

Youngsters and big kids alike were treated to a procession including acrobatic ice elves, Christmas belles and real-life snowmen.

And fans of Frozen were handed a first-time appearance from leading character Elsa, who joined Santa himself for a special sing-along.

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Police force to get 108 new officers

HAMPSHIRE'S police force has been handed "a much-needed lifeline" after the county's police and crime commissioner (PCC) announced plans to recruit more than 100 new officers.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

Commissioner Simon Hayes' £5.5million proposals will see a total of 108 officers employed by Hampshire Constabulary over the next year – the highest influx of new policemen and women since 2010.

Tuesday's announcement follows Chancellor George Osborne's surprise U-turn on further cuts to the police as part of the Autumn Statement last month.

But with 650 people already losing their jobs at Hampshire's police force in the last five years in line with nationwide cutbacks, Mr Hayes was adamant that numbers could not be cut any further without affecting the level of service provided to the public.

He said: "Previous years of government policy cutting funding has put intolerable strain on policing across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

"I don't believe that officer numbers can be cut any further, while protecting people and places in the way the public expect.

"So I'm announcing we will be recruiting 108 new police officers into Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as soon as possible.

"This supports my commitment to neighbourhood policing, and will have a direct benefit to all communities, both rural and urban."

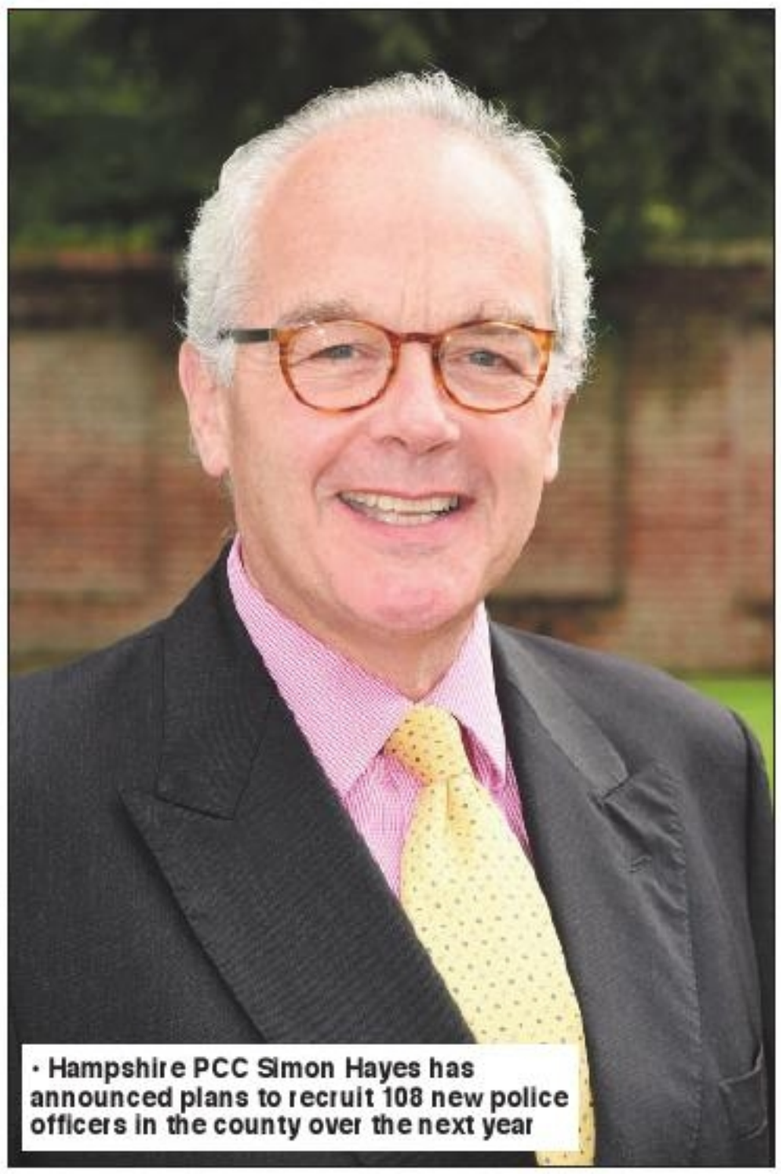
Mr Hayes also revealed that new investment would be made to combat cyber crime and bolster the force's firearms capability over the next few weeks.

Home Office statistics revealed in March that there had been a five per cent drop in officers operating in Hampshire from 3,247 to 3,064 in just 12 months – with the county's Police Federation predicting that as many as 1,000 could be out of work by 2017 if expected cuts went ahead.

However, while he acknowledged that new recruitment was a "good first step", federation chairman John Apter insisted that the move wouldn't "undo the terrible damage done before".

He added: "This isn't increasing the overall numbers, just sustaining us at the current figure – it won't take us back to where we were five years ago.

"But I don't want to be dismissive because it's fantastic news as this will be the most officers we've recruited in all that time."



• Hampshire PCC Simon Hayes has announced plans to recruit 108 new police officers in the county over the next year

Bus proposal 'red line' issue for Labour

• *From front page*

Cllr James said: "One of the biggest issues in this town is public transport, and once the price goes up, it will just be the start of it continuing to go up.

"We were quite excited that this was a good opportunity to run our own transport authority like they do in Reading, whose service is great.

"But this is poor, very poor, and this is a red line issue for us going forward."

Conservative councillors currently occupy more than half of the 60 seats at the borough council, although a lack of support from Labour's 17 members could have an effect on any potential vote on the issue.

But with discussions still in the early stages with secretary of state for communities and local government Greg Clark on whether to take the proposal forward, council leader Clive Sanders has accused the borough's Labour group of "scaremongering".

Cllr Sanders said: "They're jumping the gun to stifle the debate on something that is a serious issue without real facts, and that's just ridiculous."

He continued: "If a deal is done, transport is one of the areas we would seriously look at making changes on.

"But there is a long way to go before this idea would see the light of day so I think this is just scaremongering from them at this stage."

While he questioned the county council's findings, Cllr Sanders also urged his fellow councillors to be "a little open minded" about the issue.

He added: "The research isn't something you can base statistical conclusions on, but there are some people that wouldn't be against paying a little in rural areas, rather than having no buses at all."

News Bites

Man arrested

BASINGSTOKE: Police have arrested an 18-year-old man from Basingstoke for breaking a 17-year-old boy's jaw last month.

The victim suffered a double fracture to his jaw that required surgery following the assault by three male suspects between Halliday Close and the underpass leading to Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College.

As previously reported in the Observer, the incident took place on November 24 at around 9.30pm, with three male suspects understood to have been involved.

One suspect has been arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery and section 18 grievous bodily harm with intent to resist/prevent arrest.

Anyone with information should contact Basingstoke CID on the police non-emergency number 101, quoting 44150409194, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

15-home plans

BASINGSTOKE: An application for outline planning permission to build 15 new homes next to a village hall in Oakley has been submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

A total of five two-bedroom, six three-bedroom and four four-bedroom houses are proposed as part of the £1.5million development in Andover Road.

The plans will also include the demolition of an existing cottage on land next to Andover Road Village Hall, and the formation of car parking for the hall and nearby allotments.

Trampoline park

BASINGSTOKE: A new indoor trampoline park will open its doors for the first time next year after an application to develop an unused unit in Basingstoke was approved by the borough council.

The Jump Factory will open the park in Rutherford Road next February following £200,000 changes to the site, which will also see a new café built, as well as seating areas and associated parking.

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'Completely fake' cuts consultation slammed

A BOROUGH councillor has attacked a "completely fake" county council consultation aimed at reducing the costs of environmental work to Hampshire's highways.

Changes put forward as part of the cost-cutting review for work to the county's roadsides include dimming street lights and reducing the amount of times grass is cut.

If given the go ahead, the proposals could each save Hampshire County Council between £50,000 and £200,000 a year as it looks to make cuts of £98million by April 2017.

But with the consultation - which concludes tomorrow - only asking residents to rank whether they would prefer to make "medium" or "high level savings", Norden councillor Paul Harvey has urged the authority to withdraw the document.

He said: "This is a completely fake consultation.

"Basically the county council is saying 'do you want massive cuts or just a lot of cuts?' and that's just ridiculous.

"I think the council should withdraw their consultation, and I believe it is open to challenge."

Cllr Harvey added: "This is a council with over

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

£400m in the bank who spend millions on expensive consultants, but expect residents to pay more for less services.

"They should start again."

A separate county council consultation conducted over the summer indicated that 55 per cent of respondents agreed with the authority's current approach to the use of limiting the spending of reserves on services such as street lighting.

And while he acknowledged that the current highways review had its flaws, executive member for economy, transport and environment Sean Woodward pointed out that the county council's strategy had resulted in £240m of savings since 2008.

"In times of austerity, the county council's focus has understandably been on working smarter and more efficiently – and maximising use of specialist skills and the best resource available to achieve better outcomes for residents," said Cllr Woodward.

"This approach has included the sharing and trading of services to other public sector partners, and working with partners across the public sector to generate savings and income, and it is one of the ways we have been able to deliver over £240m of efficiency savings, to date.

"It is, however, quite correct to say that the current consultation on highways environmental work doesn't give all the possible options for cost reductions in highway services."

To view the consultation, visit hants.gov.uk/highwaysconsultation.

• Borough councillor for Norden Paul Harvey feels that Hampshire County Council should withdraw its consultation on environmental works to the county's highways

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Public has its say on fire service

A 12-WEEK consultation on the future of Hampshire's fire service concluded last Friday.

More than 650 residents attended a series of public meetings and forums across the county to have their say on Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's risk review.

A total of 215 firefighting posts could be lost over the next four years as part of a string of cost-cutting changes to the service to save £12.2million.

The number of firefighters at Basingstoke Fire Station in West Ham Close could be reduced from 33 to 25, while a rapid response vehicle could replace a third of the station's fire engines.

Almost 30,000 people visited the service's website to view the proposals and hundreds of residents completed the consultation survey.

Deputy chief officer Neil Odin said: "We are really pleased with the feedback we have had from this consultation over the future of our service.

"We will now spend time reviewing all the submissions and feedback to help us form the final proposals that will shape the future of Hampshire's fire and rescue service."

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority will meet on February 24 next year to make a final decision on the proposed cuts.

Litterbugs face court in crackdown

A BOROUGH council crackdown on dropping cigarette butts and other littering brought about the convictions of seven people last month.

Each of the perpetrators were handed a criminal conviction along with fines ranging between £105 and £440 and court and victim surcharges for offences at Basingstoke Magistrates Court on November 26.

A total of 12 people have faced court action for littering as part of the council's 'No Ifs, No Butts' campaign since it was launched at the start of the year, with more prosecutions still outstanding.

Council officers and community support patrol teams have been issuing fines to people caught dropping litter, with 1,850 cigarette butts found on the town centre's streets in one day alone.

A total of 112 warnings and 178 fixed penalty notices have been issued as part of the campaign, with the authority pleading with residents to use bins properly.

Cabinet member for communities, service delivery and improvement, Cllr Robert Tate, said: "The council's crackdown on littering in the borough has had a very successful start.

"I hope these recent prosecutions will demonstrate to people that littering, whether it's a cigarette butt or anything else, will not be tolerated on our streets.

"So please keep the borough's streets cleaner, and avoid littering fines by using the waste bins or taking your litter home."

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Residents urged to give gift of life

HAMPSHIRE'S hospital trust has appealed to more people across the county to join the organ donation register.

A total of 35 people have helped save the lives of 131 patients across Hampshire's three hospitals from beyond the grave since 2005.

One of the lucky benefactors has been 47-year-old Chineham resident Tracey Sinclair – who has received two kidney transplants.

She said: "The average life of a transplanted kidney is 10 years, so I have regular checks and if things start to deteriorate, I may need to go back on dialysis or back on the organ donor list.

"The transplant has given me a much better quality of life."

Nationally, the UK has one of the lowest rates in Europe for families consenting to organ donation, with only 58 per cent agreeing to offer their family members' organs after they died.

And Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have now called on anyone who may be interested in becoming a donor to let their family know before it's too late.

The trust's organ donation nurse Helen McManus said: "Telling your loved ones you want to be a donor means they will be in no doubt about your decision, meaning your wishes will be fulfilled."

Friendly visits for elderly patients

A BASINGSTOKE woman has been devoting hours of her time providing company for a hospital patient with a serious illness.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) launched its befriending service in June to offer social companionship for people with chronic or life limiting diseases who might feel lonely.

The service has been rolled out across Basingstoke hospital, Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester and Andover War Memorial Hospital, with the trust one of only 12 in England to receive funding.

One of the first volunteers to be allocated a patient was Basingstoke's Victoria Chamberlain, with the 41-year-old making visits to North Hampshire resident Larry Casey for several weeks ever since.

"I was nervous to begin with, but it has been going really well," said Victoria.

"We talk about whatever Larry wants to talk about, whether that be family, plans for Christmas or the weather.

"Larry said that I really brightened up his day a couple of weeks ago.

"I'm enjoying it as well and would encourage other people to volunteer for the service."

Larry added: "I'm really enjoying the visit and think that the scheme is really good.

"It's easy for elderly people to become cut off and I think a lot of people would appreciate having a weekly visitor."

Volunteers are asked to commit to visiting for two hours a week as part of the programme, are matched up with patients within their local area and will receive both relevant training and on-going support by HHFT.

Befriending manager Caroline Nash said: "The feedback we have had so far is really positive and both patients and volunteers think it is fantastic.

"The volunteers we have going out are really enjoying it – it's just such a worthwhile thing to do.

"These people are very lonely, so when volunteers go and see them, it can be a bit like their birthday coming every week because they are looking forward to it."

Anyone wishing to become a befriending volunteer should visit hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/work-with-us.

• Volunteer Victoria Chamberlain meets with Larry Casey each week as part of HHFT's befriending service

Centre to get X Factor funding boost

A SUTTON Scotney-based children's hospice will be handed a share of the proceeds raised from TV talent show The X Factor's winning single.

Naomi House and Jacksplace will benefit from funds generated following Sunday's final at the SSE Wembley Arena due to its partnership with charity Together for Short Lives.

The hospice, which provides care and support for children with life-limiting illnesses and their families, also benefited from last year's winner Ben Haenow's single 'Something I Need' after being chosen by show boss Simon Cowell.

Naomi House and Jacksplace head of fundraising Paul Morgan said: "Christmas is a very special time at our hospices and the support of Simon Cowell and X Factor means we can make Christmas even more magical for the 263 children and 110 adults that rely on our vital service."

Residents will be able to download the winner's single immediately after the show and purchase the CD in stores from next Tuesday, with all profits going to Together for Short Lives.

Mr Cowell said: "I have worked with these inspirational charities for many years and I'm delighted that The X Factor winner's single sales help families going through such difficult times."

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MP backs Syrian air strikes

MARIA Miller has defended her decision to vote in favour of UK airstrikes in Syria against terror group ISIS.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

The Basingstoke MP was one of 397 members to back the move following a 10-hour debate in Westminster last Wednesday.

Two Tornado GR4s and a pair of Eurofighter Typhoon jets were sent to drop bombs targeting oil fields controlled by the Islamic extremist group within hours of the decision.

Further RAF aircraft and unmanned Reaper drones were then launched in a second wave of attacks on Friday in a bid to limit the resources of ISIS, also known as ISIL and Daesh.

And following the Paris terror attacks last month that saw at least 130 people killed, Mrs Miller has insisted that Britain must stand alongside its allies to prevent similar attacks from taking place.

She said: "The slaughter on the streets of Paris was shocking, as was the confirmation of the number of ISIL-backed terrorist attacks planned for Britain, which have been stopped by UK security forces in the last year.

• Basingstoke MP Maria Miller

"To achieve their aims the terrorists only have to be lucky once, whereas the security forces have to be successful every time in blocking terror attacks against our nation.

"I believe, based on the evidence, that the way to deal with the growing threat to the UK posed by ISIL is to continue the measures we are taking at home, and to have a comprehensive programme to work with our allies to stop ISIL in the territory that it controls."

Mrs Miller was joined in backing the move to expand the UK's bombing of ISIS beyond Iraq by MPs for North East Hampshire and North West Hampshire Ranil Jayawardena and Kit Malthouse – with 223 members voting against the motion.

Speaking during Wednesday's debate Mr Jayawardena said: "Although we may not approve of the Assad regime, our overwhelming priority must be to protect the United Kingdom and support our allies.

"To do that, we must stabilise Syria, avoiding the creation of further ungoverned spaces in which terrorism will thrive."

Mrs Miller added: "It would be wrong for the United Kingdom to sub-contract its security to other countries."

Protestor defaces government building

A HARTLEY Wintney mum was arrested in Whitehall last week for protesting against "government hypocrisy" on climate change.

Ruth Jarman, 52, was charged with criminal damage after whitewashing the walls of the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in London.

Mrs Jarman and four other Christian Climate Action protestors also wrote 'Dept for Extreme Climate Change' in black letters on the building during last Monday's protest.

The group acted on the first day of the Climate Summit in Paris, with Mrs Jarman accusing the DECC of "undermining global efforts" to tackle climate change.

She said: "I wanted to make a stand against the death and destruction that is being aided by the policies of the DECC.

"DECC speaks fine words about the seriousness of climate change, but its current policies are undermining global efforts to confront this threat, most importantly at the meeting of world leaders at the Paris Summit [last week]."

The protestors also delivered a letter to energy and climate change secretary Amber Rudd, before then kneeling around a skeleton and praying until they were arrested.

Mrs Jarman added: "I wanted to reveal the hypocritical whitewash of DECC and rebrand it as the Dept for Extreme Climate Change."

The campaigners have been bailed to appear at Westminster Magistrates Court on Monday.

• Mrs Jarman and another protestor whitewashing the wall at the DECC's building in London

News Bites

Christmas fair

BASINGSTOKE: A feline-friendly charity will host its Christmas Fair in Basingstoke on Saturday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Cat Protection's Basingstoke and District Branch will host the event at The Viables Community Centre in Harrow Way.

Entry costs 50p or a donation of a tin of cat food.

Charity award

ALTON: An Alton College student has been awarded with a British Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen Award for fundraising.

Will Grange was among 16 winners to be cut down from 130 nominations from across the country after raising £8,000 for charity by sleeping in a tent for a whole year in his garden.

He said: "I am delighted with this accolade, and was very surprised to win – I am proud of my fundraising effort."

Lottery results

BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE: St Michael's Hospice has announced the winners of its latest lottery draw from Friday, December 4.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 82841 of Dummer, while ticket 55726 of Overton claims second prize of £100.

Third prize of £50 goes to Basingstoke ticket 29019, and Oakley ticket 95320 gets fourth prize of £20.

Prizes of £5 go 17014, 18471, 34588, 35671, 36494, 40343, 42240, 47494, 48435, 56890, 65389, 73609, 74990, 85440, 87540 and 88956.

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For friendly and independent expert advice speak to Basingstoke Water Softeners on 01256 703346 or 01635 299866 Alternatively visit: www.basingstokewatersofteners.co.uk or visit their showroom at Greenacres, Aldermaston Road, RG26 3AF, Tuesday to Saturday between 10am and 4pm. We also serve Newbury, Andover, Reading and surrounding areas.

News Bites

Business bid

BASINGSTOKE: Two of Basingstoke's most exciting technology start-ups bid for investment in front of a live audience of over 150 investors in London last month.

GPS-based anti-theft creators Sherlock and Razorsecure, who provide advanced cyber security, each pitched their product in front of investors at business incubation programme SETsquared's Accelerating Growth event on November 25.

Entrepreneur in residence at SETsquared's hub in Basing View Adrian Braine said: "Once again at Accelerating Growth, we sawsome fantastic, engaging pitches from the companies SETsquared supports."

He continued: "Investment isn't a short process but it was promising to see so many positive conversations taking place between the start-ups and investors at the event."

Music talent

BASINGSTOKE: Talented young musicians from the borough competed in the preliminary round of the Rotary Young Musician Competition on November 27.

The Basingstoke Rotary Club event took place at Queen Mary's College and attracted students ranging from eight to 17 years old.

Winners in the under 11 age group were flute player Izzy Webber and vocalist Eleonore Thiriet, while the winners of the 11 to 16-years group were pianist Dmitri Bowgens and singer Sean Granahan.

Bethany Lee won the 17 to 18-years group award.

Decision postponed on Bramley housing

BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Council has delayed making a final decision on plans for a controversial housing development in Bramley due to concerns over flooding at the site.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

A total of 50 homes had been proposed for land north of Sherfield Road in a £5million development as part of the council's draft local plan.

Council officers had recommended that the plans be approved ahead of last Wednesday night's development control committee meeting, despite 136 different letters of objection from residents.

But councillors voted to postpone making a final decision so as to provide more in-depth information on the threat posed by localised flooding on open space to the north of the site and on the nearby C32 and Strawberry Fields.

Bramley and Sherfield councillor Chris Tomblin said: "This application is more or less saying we need to understand everything about flooding, but only after we've approved this build.

"So I would say to you all that perhaps we should see that information before making a decision."

Oakley and North Waltham councillor Diane Taylor added: "I don't know much about flooding but I don't want what happened at Buckskin last year to happen again.

"I just feel that if we approve this we will lose control, this committee, of what happens next, but will still have to take the flack for that decision."

The committee also deferred on making a decision to give more time to analyse the impact ongoing nearby developments such as the 200-home build at Minchens Lane will have on the village.

A total of 200 homes were originally assigned to Bramley as part of the council's local plan, but with plans to build 425 homes at Razors Farm, off Cufaude Lane, also being approved last year, Chineham councillor Joyce Bowyer felt the latest development would be "unsustainable".

She said: "Bramley just cannot sustain all these houses.

"This development will bring nothing to the area.

"We have to worry about the people already living there – it's totally unsustainable."

Cllr Tomblin added: "Any more houses is just too much to take in a deep breath, and I cannot see how any more houses now, following Minchens Lane, will do anything to enhance the village."

• Bramley and Sherfield councillor Chris Tomblin doesn't feel that building on the site "will do anything to enhance" Bramley

Driver caught 'watching YouTube'

A TOTAL of 255 motorists were caught distraction driving during a 10-day police operation in Hampshire last month.

Officers from Hampshire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police conducted the investigation during two separate patrols of the M27, M3, A34, M4 and the M40.

Around 140 drivers were caught committing offences ranging from using a mobile phone at the wheel and for speeding on the roads during checks between Monday, November 23 and Friday, November 27.

These findings came after more than 100 motorists were caught by Hampshire and Thames Valley's Joint Operations Unit (JOU) whilst distracted between Monday, November 2 and Friday, November 6.

Operation organiser Sergeant Paul Diamond said: "During the operation, officers saw a driver watching YouTube, another using his iPad, and several lorry drivers reading their paperwork.

"One driver of an HGV even had both feet up on the dashboard whilst also using his mobile phone."

The operation discovered 243 mobile phone offences and 12 drivers were found to not be in proper control of their vehicle, with 338 offered a referral course or given a ticket.

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Police appeal after man assaulted in town centre

POLICE have arrested two teenagers from Basingstoke after a man was subjected to an early-morning assault in the town.

The 42-year-old victim was attacked as he walked in Alencon Link at around 2.20am on Sunday, November 29.

He sustained cuts to his face and hands as a result of the attack.

Two unnamed boys, aged 16 and 17-years old respectively, have since been arrested in connection with the incident and have been released on police bail until February 2 next year.

Despite the arrests however, police are still appealing to residents from the area, or anyone that might have information relating to the assaults, to come forward.

PC Gemma Dunno, from Basingstoke police station, said: "This is a rare occurrence for this area, which contains a number of large residential buildings.

"Did you witness the attack or see anything you thought was suspicious at this time?"

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Dunn on the police non-emergency number 101, quoting 44150414408.

Alternatively, residents can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Post deliveries stopped following safety worries

RESIDENTS living on an Old Basing road will not have their post delivered over the Christmas period after Royal Mail ruled that it would "compromise the safety" of workers due to heavy traffic.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

The delivery company has ruled out allowing postmen and women to deliver in Crown Lane following a risk assessment carried out in the village – with six homes set to be directly affected.

Work at the Black Dam roundabout has been identified as a key contributor to the traffic flow, as drivers have attempted to avoid the works by cutting through Old Basing.

But while acknowledging that the £10million developments - which won't be completed until next March after further delays - had played a part in the problems, Basing councillor Sven Godesen insisted that the issue outdated the controversial works.

"It's a difficult issue, because residents will now rightly say if it's too dangerous for Royal Mail workers, it's too dangerous for them to walk their children to school," said Cllr Godesen.

"I lived in one of the houses in Crown Lane for 10 years from 1986, and we've had a serious problem of people using the road as a rat run since then.

"I don't know whether Black Dam will eventually solve this because it is in people's DNA now.

"But right now, pedestrians are taking their lives in their hands walking along Crown Lane, never mind schoolchildren, so I can see why people are concerned."

Fellow Basing councillor Clive Pinder added: "I am shocked that Royal Mail has decided to suspend delivery over the holidays – especially as traffic is usually lighter at this time of year.

"I will be working with ward, county and parish councillors, as well as our MP, to see if there is any pressure we can apply to Royal Mail to reverse this decision."

Residents affected will be able to collect their post from Royal Mail's Basingstoke delivery office in Priestley Road, while they can also nominate an alternative address from which to receive their mail.

A spokesman said: "We apologise to customers on Crown Lane for the continued suspension of deliveries to their properties."

He added: "We regret the inconvenience caused by the continued suspension, however we cannot compromise on the safety of our postmen and women."

Following Royal Mail's suspension of deliveries, Hampshire County Council has announced that it will carry out a safety audit for pedestrians, while also continuing to work with utilities companies and Highways England to minimise disruption caused by Black Dam.

Executive member for economy, transport and environment, Cllr Sean Woodward, added: "It is, I'm afraid, impossible to engineer complete road safety – we need the people using the road to use it as safely as possible, and drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to exercise consideration and care."

• Royal Mail has suspended deliveries to Crown Lane in Old Basing (picture by Tony Tuck), and (inset) Basing councillor Sven Godesen

Fake charger warning for residents

HAMPSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service is urging the public not to buy or use cheap and unbranded chargers in their homes.

The countywide appeal comes after a serious house fire was caused in Jasmine Grove in Waterlooville on November 30 by a faulty charging appliance.

And with many people buying electrical devices for their friends and family over the Christmas period, the fire service has urged caution to those thinking of purchasing chargers on the cheap.

Head of community safety Stew Adamson said: "There has been an increase in the number of incidents being reported about faulty electrical goods, particularly fake, cheap and unbranded chargers.

"The chargers are usually 'fake' or faulty and being used with mobile phones, electric cigarettes or other similar devices, but even 'real' chargers pose risks if they are not used correctly or for the device for which they are intended."

Unbranded chargers are cheap but many of them fail to meet UK safety regulations and can lead to electric shocks, injuries and cause fires.

A Hampshire County Council Trading Standards spokesperson said: "The message is do not buy cheap or unbranded chargers as they may be dangerous and illegal."

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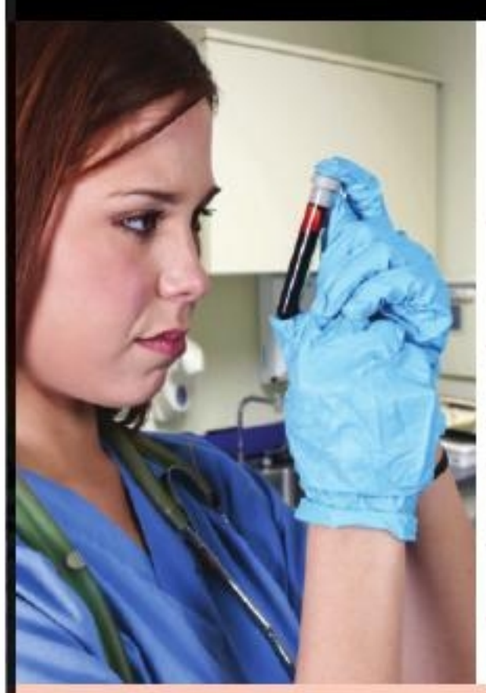
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Hidden Gem celebrates Small Business Saturday with a winter wonderland

A JEWEL in a crown certainly shone when Basingstoke's MP Maria Miller paid a visit to Petra Jewellery's Winter Wonderland event on Small Business Saturday.

Mrs Miller popped by the town's leading independent jewellers, based at Viables Craft Centre, to champion small businesses on one of the busiest shopping days of the year, December 5th.

The aim of Small Business Saturday, which is a grassroots, non-political campaign, is to highlight small business success and encourages consumers to support local shops and small businesses in their communities in the all important run-up to Christmas.

Delighted to be supporting Small Business Saturday, Mrs Miller said: "In Basingstoke we have got a strong ethos of being entrepreneurial and the number of people who are employed by small businesses is huge."

Describing Viables Craft Centre as a "jewel in the crown of Basingstoke," Mrs Miller, who chairs the newly established Women and Equalities Select Committee, was particularly impressed when she learned from Mitch Lloyd, the chief designer and owner of Petra Jewellery, that all of the craft businesses are run by women.

The MP told Mitch that she is eager to do more to support women going into business.

Referring to a recent meeting with members of local networking organisation, Women in Business Group, she said wants to link up conversations with business women in Basingstoke with the work she is doing on the select committee. Mitch explained "I'm really keen to speak to other women in business, I've been on quite a journey myself and understand the challenges of growing a business and also being a Mum, wife and small business owner where I'm 'Director of Everything'!"

Mrs Miller also discussed the importance of promoting apprenticeships as a way that entrepreneurs of small businesses can grow their staff with support from the Government.

The issue struck a chord with Mitch who is currently on the look-out for a 'business administration and marketing' apprentice.

Mitch took Mrs Miller on a tour of the firm's bright new premises, which includes a workshop, where work ranging from simple repairs to high end bespoke commissions are carried out.

Earlier in the year, the growing firm relocated at the craft centre to The Cottage, which is around six times the size of its former shop.

While there Mrs Miller met with staff and Mitch's mother, Petra, who started the business 36 years ago, not long after Viables Farm was converted into Viables Craft Centre.

Tim Colman said: "Viables Craft Centre is a secret gem – it's the best kept secret in the area"

> "Viables Craft Centre is a secret gem – it's the best kept secret in the area"

For more information about Petra Jewellery call 01256 355945 or email info@petrajewellery.com.

Below (left to right). Maria Miller MP, Tim Coleman FSB (Federation of Small Businesses), Laurance Martin FSB, Mitch Lloyd and Petra Moore of Petra Jewellery

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AWE holds open day

MORE than 700 people attended an Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) open day at Tadley Library last Tuesday.

The event was designed to give students and parents the opportunity to learn more about the nuclear deterrent manufacturer's apprenticeship programme.

A total of 42 trainees were taken on at AWE's base in Aldermaston in September as part of this year's scheme – with applications for next year's programme now open until mid-January next year.

Speaking after the open day, marketing manager Victoria Edwards said: "I was delighted to see so many people attend this event.

"This huge turnout illustrates that there is a very strong appetite for apprenticeships.

"People asked lots of questions about what to expect out of an AWE apprenticeship and it was great to have current enthusiastic AWE apprentices on-hand to answer them."

AWE's nationally recognised Skills Academy will see apprentices work on site to achieve an NVQ qualification for a year, combined with day release to college to achieve a Level 3 Technical Certificate.

Budding trainees will be able to apply for apprenticeships in mechanical maintenance, control and instrumentation, precision machining and electrical maintenance in next year's programme.

Council 'considering' Stepping Stone homes

THE deputy leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is "open to the idea" of using pre-fabricated housing to help tackle the district's housing problem.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

As previously reported in the Observer, the use of flat-pack dwellings has been put forward as an idea to provide homes while the numerous permanent developments in the area are built.

The single occupancy 26m² studio apartments – known as Stepping Stone housing – are currently being successfully trialled in the London Borough of Merton's Y:Cube development for young people moving out of YMCA residencies.

And with a government planning inspector currently deciding on whether to increase the demand to build 850 homes annually for the next 14 years as part of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's draft local plan, Cllr Terri Reid has admitted that the idea could be a "fantastic solution".

She said: "The new housing and planning bill has particular focus on affordable housing, so we're open to any innovative suggestions to get people on the ladder.

"This could be great for single and young people coming to work in Basingstoke, or more importantly, for those who are living here already.

• Merton's Y:Cube development, and (inset) the council's deputy leader Terri Reid

"I'm not going to say 'yes, absolutely, let's do this' because we would have to discuss it with members first, but we are definitely looking at it."

Each apartment would cost around £35,000 to construct and around £140 to let a week, with units arriving on site ready made and able to be easily moved.

The idea was raised by Basingstoke's Liberal Democrat Group to run alongside the council's policy of setting aside 40 per cent of homes proposed in on-going developments for affordable housing.

Group leader Cllr Gavin James said: "With this speed of construction and implementation, it could be the perfect solution for brownfield infill plots and even sites where development is stalled, or where construction won't begin for several years.

"We have the land and the money as a council to make Stepping Stone housing a reality."

Cllr Reid added: "So many ideas have been thrown into the housing melting pot, and we'll have to see how that develops, but this could be a fantastic solution.

"We're really happy to take any opportunities put forward, and this model could also well be the answer to run alongside our supporting people programme – we're not ruling anything out."

News Bites

School visit

POPLEY: Youngsters from a Popley infant school got a close up view of how new homes are constructed last month.

Pupils from Marnel Community Infant School visited the site of the 450-home Spiers Meadow development in North Popley on November 13.

Headteacher Susan Cox said: "It's not every day you get to see brand new homes being created – and I'm pleased that the pupils were able to witness the processes involved."

Double winner

HOOK: A Hampshire mum was honoured at the prestigious DevelopHer Award on November 26.

Stella James, of Rotherwick, near Hook, won the overall award and innovation award at the ceremony in East Anglia for her development of children's gaming app Gooseberry Planet.

She said: "I am immensely proud to receive these awards."

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Christmas Greetings at Serendipity

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Competition

WIN tickets to see Harlequinade in London's West End

THE first season of the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company is now open, starting with a unique Terence Rattigan double bill, as Zoë Wanamaker appears alongside Kenneth Branagh in the uproarious comic gem Harlequinade, following her performance of the powerfully atmospheric one-woman play, All On Her Own.

Harlequinade, Rattigan's backstage farce is a comic treat and focuses on the author's first love - the theatre. It pokes fun at a fictional acting company whose intrigues and dalliances are revealed with increasingly calamitous consequences.

In a dramatic contrast, All On Her Own is both heart-breaking and sinister. Wanamaker gives a tour de force performance as Rosemary, who is alone at midnight in London with a dangerous secret. Also starring Miranda Raison, Tom Bateman, John Shrapnel and Jessie Buckley.

Don't miss your chance to see this special Terence Rattigan double bill.

Garrick Theatre, 2 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0HH
http://www.branaghtheatre.com

Closing date: Thursday, Dec 17

Win tickets!

We have 2 pairs of tickets to be won for the evening performance on Wednesday 6 January 2016. To enter answer the following question:

Q: At which London Theatre can you see Harlequinade? Shaftesbury, Garrick or London?

★★★★ *'This Terence Rattigan double bill is a sparkling opening to the season. Branagh is genuinely fantastic... a great comic'* Time Out

★★★★★ *'Wanamaker is devastatingly good'* Whatsonstage.com

★★★★ Evening Standard, The Independent, Guardian, Metro

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
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Prize tickets are top price tickets and are valid only for the evening performance on Wednesday 6 January 2016. Tickets are non-transferable. No cash alternative is available. Travel is not included.

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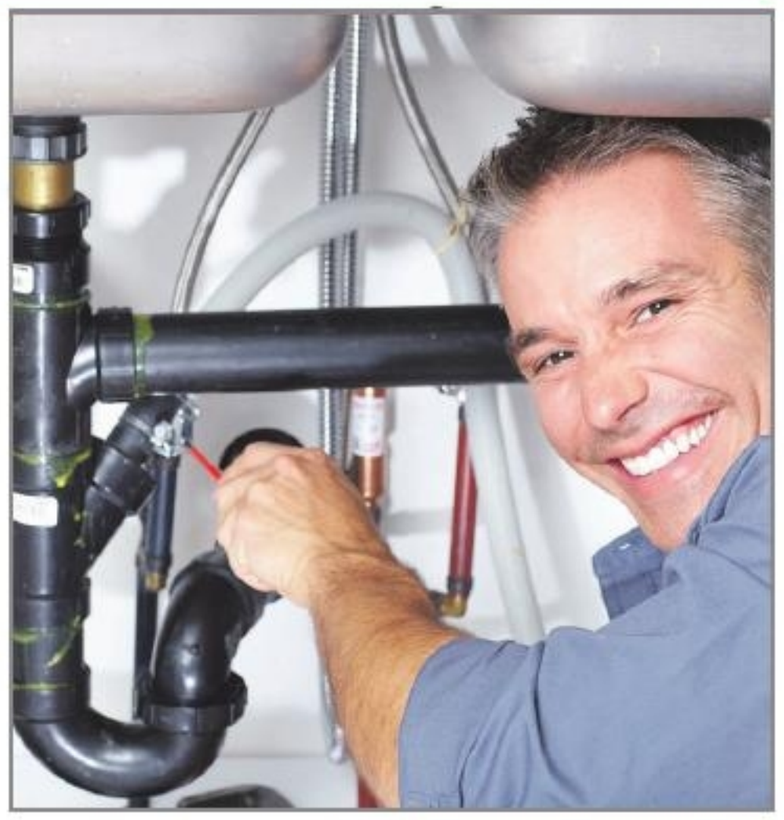

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*Statistics obtained from The International Glaucoma Association.

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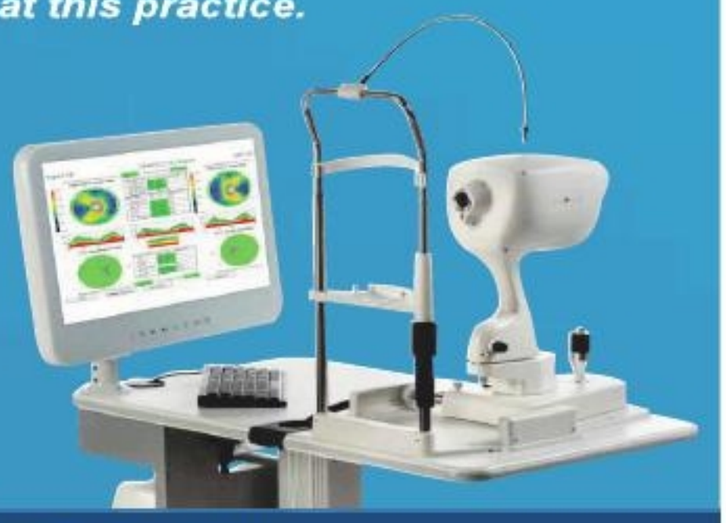

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What's on

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• *The Three Billy Goats Gruff will be at the Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre in Bordon on Wednesday, December 16. See inside (picture courtesy of Garlic Theatre)*

A tale of goats and a troll

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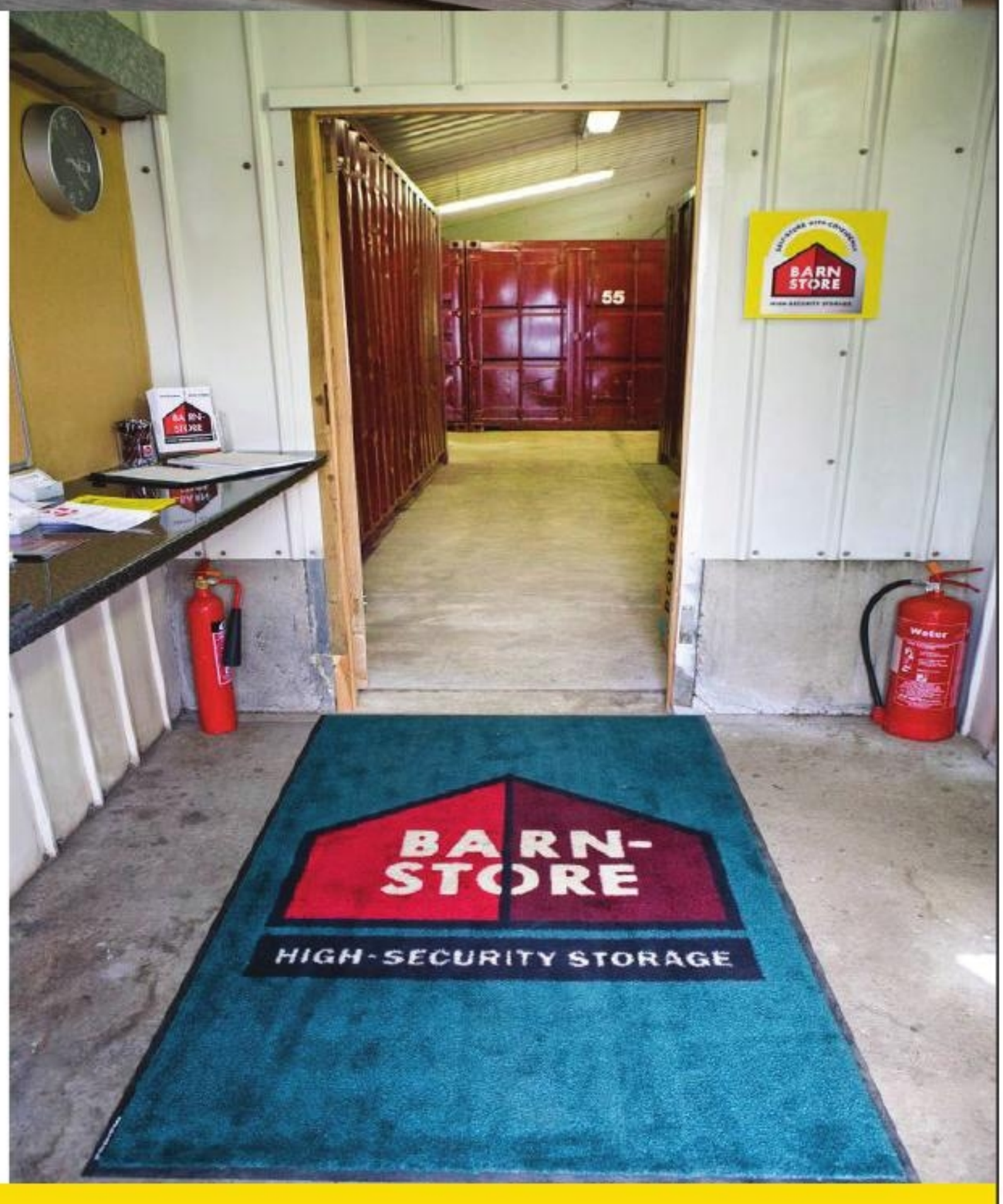

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Friday December 11th

DAYTIME

BBC1

Have I Got News for You, 9pm

6.00 Breakfast (S) **9.15 Sister Rita to the Rescue** (S) **10.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **11.00 Oxford Street Revealed** (S) **11.45 Family Finders** (S)(R) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S) **1.00 BBC News at One; Weather** (S) **1.30 BBC Regional News and Weather** (S) **1.45 Doctors** (S) **2.15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries** A rock and roll star dies in an alleyway. (S)(R) **3.10 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.40 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas** (S) **4.25 Flog It!** (S)(R) **5.15 Pointless** (S)(R) **6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather** (S) **6.30 BBC Regional News Programmes** (S)

7

7.00 The One Show Hosted by Matt Baker and Alex Jones. (S)
7.30 A Question of Sport With Carl Fogarty, John Hartson, Perri Shakes-Drayton and Ashton Sims; (S)(R) BBC News; Regional News (S)

8

8.00 EastEnders Vincent's birthday party ends on a sour note. (S)
8.30 Citizen Khan Mr Khan enters the Great Sparkhill Bake Off. (S)

9

9.00 Have I Got News for You With panellists Andy Hamilton and Kirsty Wark. (S)
9.30 Peter Kay's Car Share Kayleigh is half-drunk after a wild party the night before. (S)(R)

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten (S)
10.25 BBC Regional News and Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.35 The Graham Norton Show With Kurt Russell, Quentin Tarantino, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. (S)

11

11.25 Josh Geoff helps Josh with his stand-up career. (S)
11.55 FILM The Double (2011) (12) Spy thriller, with Richard Gere and Topher Grace. (S)

AFTER 12

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead (S)
1.30 BBC News (S)

BBC2

QI, 10pm

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer (S)(R) **7.00 Oxford Street Revealed** (S)(R) **7.45 Flog It! Trade Secrets** (S) **8.15 Sign Zone: An Island Parish: Falklands** (S)(R) **8.45 Sign Zone: Great British Menu** (S)(R) **9.15 Victoria Derbyshire** (S) **11.00 BBC News** (S) **12.00 Daily Politics** (S) **1.00 Cash in the Attic** (S)(R) **1.45 Pressure Pad** (S)(R) **2.30 The Great British Bake Off** (S)(R) **3.30 The Great Antiques Map of Britain** (S)(R) **4.00 The World's Most Photographed** (S)(R) **4.30 Wogan: The Best Of** (S)(R) **5.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **6.00 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two** (S)

7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip Nick Hewer and his former fellow Apprentice adviser Margaret Mountford take on the antiques-hunting challenge travelling around the south of England. (S)(R)

8.00 Mastermind Specialised subjects include politician Barbara Castle and record producer Joe Meek. (S)
8.30 An Island Parish: Falklands Plans are made to commemorate Liberation Day.

9.00 Alex Polizzi: Hire Our Heroes Part one of two. The cases of four veterans, all discharged from the army with mental illness, who despite having a highly trained military skill set cannot find new jobs. (S)

10.00 QI With Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoy. (S)
10.30 Newsnight (S)

11.00 Artsnight – Juergen Teller Chris Dercon talks to photographer Juergen Teller; (S) Weather (S)
11.30 FILM Frenzy (1972) (18) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Jon Finch and Barry Foster. (S)

1.25 Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **2.25** Imagine – Antony Gormley: Being Human (S)(R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Coronation Street, 7.30pm

6.00 Good Morning Britain (S) **8.30 Lorraine** (S) **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (S) **10.30 This Morning** (S) **12.30 Loose Women** (S) **1.30 ITV Lunchtime News;** Weather (S) **1.55 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **2.00 Judge Rinder** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (S) **3.00 1000 Heartbeats** Quiz show, hosted by Vernon Kay. (S) **3.59 ITV Regional Weather** (S) **4.00 Tipping Point** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (S) **5.00 The Chase** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (S) **6.00 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.30 ITV Evening News;** Weather (S)

7.00 Emmerdale Ashley has a mini-stroke. (S)
7.30 Coronation Street Rob drops a bombshell on Johnny. (S)

8.00 Gino's Italian Escape How Sicily's history has influenced the food its people eat. (S)
8.30 Coronation Street Rob threatens to blackmail Johnny. (S)

9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories Timothy West joins the host to look back on a five-decade career as one of Britain's top actors and reflect on his wife Prunella Scales' battle with dementia. Last in the series. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.30 ITV Regional News; Weather (S)
10.40 FILM 300 (2006) (15) Fantasy adventure, starring Gerard Butler and Lena Headey. (S)

Channel 4

Alan Carr: Chatty Man, 10pm

6.00 Countdown (S)(R) **6.45 3rd Rock from the Sun** (S)(R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **9.00 Frasier** (S)(R) **10.00 Undercover Boss USA** (S)(R) **11.00 Jamie at Home Christmas Special** (S)(R) **12.00 Channel 4 News** (S) **12.05 Couples Come Dine with Me** (S)(R) **12.45 Channel 4 Racing** (S) **3.10 Countdown** With David Baddiel in Dictionary Corner. (S) **4.00 Posh Pawnbrokers** In Sheffield, Dan examines a vintage arcade boxing machine. (S) **5.00 Couples Come Dine with Me** Three couples compete in south London. (S) **6.00 The Simpsons** (S) **6.30 Hollyoaks** (S)

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)

8.00 TFI Friday Martin Freeman, Idris Elba, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, James Bay, Rita Ora and Sigma join Chris Evans for the entertainment show mixing music and chat with stunts and skits. (S)

9.00 Gogglebox Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (S)

10.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man The comedian hosts the entertainment chat show packed with celebrity guests, sketches, topical discussion, news and audience participation. (S)

11.05 First Dates Waiter Sam steps into the breach when a young woman is stood up. (S)(R)

12.10 That's So Last Century (S)(R) **1.10 FILM The Host (2013) (12)** (S) **3.15** Four Rooms (S) **4.10** You Deserve This House (S)(R) **5.05** Kirstie's Vintage Gems (S)(R) **5.25** Deal or No Deal (R)

Channel 5

Ice Road Truckers, 8pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff Panel discussion. **11.45 FILM Hats Off to Christmas! (2013) (PG)** Romantic drama, with Haylie Duff and Antonio Cupo. (S) **1.30 5 News Lunchtime** (S) **1.35 Neighbours** Terese lays down the law with Piper. (S) **2.05 FILM Mr St Nick (2002) (U)** Festive comedy, starring Kelsey Grammer. (S) **3.45 FILM Twelve Trees of Christmas (2013) (PG)** Premiere. Drama, starring Lindy Booth. (S) **5.30 5 News at 5 6.00 Neighbours** Terese lays down the law with Piper. (S)(R) **6.30 5 News Tonight** (S)

7.00 UK's Strongest Man 2015 The World's Ultimate Strongest Team event; (S) 5 News (S)

8.00 Ice Road Truckers Darrell has a confrontation with his boss that could lead to big changes for the company. Art, Todd and Lisa risk driving across buckling ice; (S) 5 News Update (S)

9.00 The Definitive History of Star Wars Documentary taking a behind-the-scenes look at how the multi-billion pound movie franchise came into existence. Contributors include Gary Kurtz and Robert Watts. (S)

10.00 How Star Wars Changed the World How the Star Wars universe has inspired fans all over the globe. (S)
10.55 Greatest Sci-Fi Movies (S)

12.25 FILM Alien Hunter (2003) (15) Sci-fi thriller, starring James Spader. (S) **2.00** SuperCasino **4.00** Kids' Hospital at Christmas (S)(R) **4.45** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.10** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.35** House Doctor (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6
6.00 Ariana Grande: The Hot Desk **6.10** You've Been Framed! **6.35** Psych **7.20** Emmerdale **8.25** Nick Jonas: The Hot Desk **8.35** The Cube **9.40** Psych **10.35** FILM: Holiday Engagement (2011) (PG) **12.25** Emmerdale **1.30** You've Been Framed! **1.55** Catchphrase **2.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show **6.00** Judge Rinder **7.00** You've Been Framed at Christmas! **8.00** Two and a Half Men **9.00** FILM: The Dark Knight (2008) (12) Comic-book thriller sequel, starring Christian Bale. **12.00** FILM: Pitch Black (2000) (15) **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10
6.00 Movies Now **6.10** George and Mildred **6.35** Heartbeat **7.40** Murder, She Wrote **8.35** Where the Heart Is **9.35** Judge Judy **10.55** A Touch of Frost **1.00** Heartbeat **2.05** Wycliffe **3.10** Where the Heart Is **4.15** On the Buses **5.20** George and Mildred **5.55** Heartbeat **6.55** Murder, She Wrote **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Law & Order: UK **11.05** Cold Blood **12.35** FILM: The Constant Gardener (2005) (15) **2.50** Judge Judy **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

BBC3 SKY: 115 FV: 7
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Don't Tell the Bride **8.30** Sherlock **10.00** EastEnders **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.15** American Dad! **12.00** Family Guy **12.45** Rent a Cop **1.15** Josh **1.45** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **2.30** Asian Provocateur **3.00** Together **4.00** Close

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9
7.00 World News Today; Weather **7.30** The Good Old Days **8.20** Pop Go the Sixties **8.30** Sounds of the 70s **9.00** TOTP2: Boy Bands **10.00** Rollermania: Britain's Biggest Boy Band **11.00** I'm in a Boy Band! **12.00** TOTP2: Boy Bands **1.00** Rollermania: Britain's Biggest Boy Band **2.00** I'm in a Boy Band! **3.00** The Good Old Days **3.50** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28
6.00 Revenge **6.45** Charmed **8.30** Hollyoaks **9.00** Rules of Engagement **10.00** Melissa & Joey **11.00** Charmed **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Melissa & Joey **4.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Hollyoaks **7.30** A to Z **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Rush Hour 3 (2007) (12) Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos **12.55** Drifters **2.00** Tripped **2.45** Gogglebox **3.40** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.25** Revenge

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14
8.55 Grand Designs **10.00** Building the Dream **11.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things **11.25** FILM: Thunder Bay (1953) (U) **1.25** Time Team **3.35** The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story – Secret History **4.40** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **5.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun **6.50** Building the Dream **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** FILM: Unknown (2011) (12) Thriller, starring Liam Neeson. **11.15** 24 Hours in A&E **12.20** Ramsay's Hotel Hell **1.15** Grand Designs **2.20** 24 Hours in A&E **3.30** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites **3.45** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15
11.00 The Long Gray Line (1955) (U) **1.45** The Flight of the Phoenix (1965) (PG) **4.35** Bride and Prejudice (2004) (12) **6.50** The Rocketeer (1991) (PG) **9.00** Legion (2010) (15) Action fantasy, starring Paul Bettany. **11.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) (15) **12.50** Princess Mononoke (1997) (PG) **3.45** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12
6.00 Home Shopping **7.00** Rocket City Rednecks **7.20** Storage Hunters **8.10** Ice Road Truckers **9.00** American Pickers **10.00** Storage Hunters UK **11.00** Top Gear **1.00** Storage Hunters **2.00** Ice Road Truckers **3.00** American Pickers **4.00** The Money Pit **5.00** Top Gear **6.00** Ice Road Truckers **7.00** American Pickers **8.00** QI XL **9.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **10.00** Crackanory **10.40** Would I Lie to You? **12.00** Not Going Out **12.40** Crackanory **1.20** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Storage Hunters UK **3.00** Only Connect **3.30** Lizard Lick Towing **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106
6.00 The Dog Whisperer **7.00** Monkey Life **8.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue **9.00** Inside Gatwick **10.00** Hawaii Five-0 **12.00** The Last Ship **2.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** Futurama **5.00** Modern Family **5.30** Futurama **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Gordonstoun: A Different Class **9.00** A League of Their Own **10.00** Bring the Noise **11.00** Hawaii Five-0 **1.00** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Road Wars **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Nothing to Declare **5.00** UK Border Force

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108
8.00 Stargate Atlantis **9.00** Star Trek: Enterprise **10.00** The West Wing **11.00** Cold Case **12.00** Blue Bloods **2.00** Stargate Atlantis **3.00** Star Trek: Enterprise **4.00** Urban Secrets **5.00** The West Wing **6.00** Cold Case **8.00** Blue Bloods **10.00** The Last Panthers **11.00** The Wire **1.35** The Knick **2.35** Curb Your Enthusiasm **4.20** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

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Saturday December 12th

DAYTIME

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 Simply Nigella** (S)(R) **12.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **12.10 Football Focus** (S) **12.50 Saturday Sportsday** (S) **1.00 Lewis Hamilton: Making History – F1 2015 Review** (S) **2.00 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **3.00 FILM Toy Story (1995) (PG)** (S) **4.15 Final Score** (S) **5.15 Celebrity Mastermind** (S)(R) **5.45 BBC News** (S) **5.55 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.00 Pointless Celebrities** A family-themed edition of the quiz. (S) **6.50 Strictly Come Dancing** The five remaining couples compete for a place in the Grand Final. (S)

BBC2

6.05 Race to Super Bowl 50 (S)(R) **6.55 FILM Anything But Christmas (2012) (PG)** (S) **8.25 FILM Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan (2011) (PG)** (S) **10.00 Animal Park** (S)(R) **10.30 Kangaroo Dundee** (S)(R) **11.00 Ronnie's Animal Crackers** (S)(R) **12.00 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas** (S)(R) **2.15 Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure** (S)(R) **3.00 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip** (S)(R) **3.30 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **4.15 Flog It!** (S) **5.15 Euro 2016 Draw** Live coverage from Paris. (S) **6.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down** (S)(R)

ITV

6.00 CITV 9.25 Murder, She Wrote (S)(R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (S)(R) **12.30 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show** Guests air their differences. (S)(R) **1.40 Judge Rinder** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (S)(R) **2.40 FILM The Polar Express (2004) (U)** Animated adventure, with the voice of Tom Hanks. (S) **4.30 Doc Martin** News of Martin and Louisa's engagement spreads. (S)(R) **5.35 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.45 Catchphrase Celebrity Special** With contestants David Haye, Andrea McLean and Louis Walsh. (S) **6.45 ITV News** (S)

Channel 4

6.15 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.30 Anglesey Sandman Triathlon** Action from the event in north Wales. (S) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **9.00 The Morning Line** Rishi Persad presents from Cheltenham. (S) **10.00 Frasier** (S)(R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **12.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing** Coverage of four races on the second day of the International meeting from Cheltenham, starting at 1.50, 2.25, 3.00 and 3.35. Plus, two races from Doncaster at 2.05 and 2.40. (S) **4.00 Come Dine with Me** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) **9.30 The Saturday Show** Topical show looking at the week's headlines. **11.30 FILM Santa Who? (2000) (U)** (S) **1.20 FILM The Perfect Holiday (2007) (PG)** (S) **3.10 FILM The Nine Lives of Christmas (2014) (PG)** Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Brandon Routh and Kimberly Sustad. (S) **4.55 FILM Once Upon a Christmas (2000) (U)** Premiere. Family drama, starring Kathy Ireland. (S) **6.35 5 News Weekend** (S) **6.40 Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops** Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong. (S)

7

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special Jimi Mistry, Gemma Atkinson, Nadia Sawalha and James Cosmo answer general knowledge questions and work together to tackle quiz genius the Chaser. Last in the series. (S)

7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather Weather conditions that cause fish to be washed ashore in India and draw sharks to Brisbane. Plus, an unusually heavy snowfall in Arizona and strange circles in the Namibian desert.

7.05 Police Interceptors A speeding motorist causes chaos after crashing into a gas main. (S)(R)

7.30 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands Michelle Dockery narrates an exploration of the Ryukyu Islands in south-west Japan. (S)(R)

8

8.00 The X Factor The three finalists assemble for the first of this weekend's live Grand Final shows, performing for the judges and the nation for what may be the last time. (S)

8.00 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows software executive Andy and garden designer Nicki, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. (S)(R)

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away Paul and Phil expect a routine eviction, but get more than they bargained for, while Stewart and Victor hunt down £66,000 owed by a businessman. Last in the series. (S)(R)

8.30 Casualty Connie dismisses Jacob's very valid concerns at work. (S)

8.30 Dad's Army Mainwaring sets up an observation post in the local lighthouse. (S)(R)

9

9.00 QI XL With Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoy. (S)

9.00 FILM Red 2 (2013) (12) Premiere. An ex-CIA agent reassembles his team of retired operatives to recover an advanced weapon that has gone missing. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis. (S)

9.00 Football League Tonight Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches. (S)

9.20 The National Lottery Live The all-important numbers. (S)

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special Mrs Brown is curious about a parcel addressed to Cathy. (S)(R)

9.45 TOTP2: Christmas 2015 Christmas-themed hits from the archive. (S)

10

10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show The host is joined in the studio by Liverpool-born comedian John Bishop and indie-pop singer and musician Ellie Goulding. (S)

10.25 The Definitive History of Star Wars Documentary taking a behind-the-scenes look at how the world's biggest, multi-billion pound movie franchise came into existence. (S)(R)

10.00 BBC News; Weather (S)

10.20 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches; (S) National Lottery Update (S)

10.45 FILM The Prestige (2006) (12) Two Victorian magicians become bitter rivals as one becomes obsessed with the secret to the other's greatest illusion. Mystery thriller, starring Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale. (S)

11

11.10 ITV News; Weather (S)

11.15 TFI Friday Martin Freeman, Idris Elba, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, James Bay, Rita Ora and Sigma join Chris Evans for the entertainment show. (S)(R)

11.25 How Star Wars Changed the World A look at the ways in which the Star Wars universe has inspired countless individuals. (S)(R)

11.30 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Burt Reynolds The actor talks about his career and personal life. Last in the series. (S)(R)

11.40 The Apprentice At the London Aquatic Centre, the remaining candidates are given the task of creating and producing a new health food, before pitching it to three major retailers. (S)(R)

AFTER 12

12.20 Jackpot247 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA (S)(R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen

12.20 Adam Hills: Happyism Live (S)(R) **1.15** Alan Carr: Chatty Man (S)(R) **2.10** Fargo (S)(R) **3.20** Hollyoaks (S)(R) **5.30** River Cottage Bites (S)(R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems (S)(R) **5.50** 1001 Things You Should Know (S)(R)

12.25 The Gadget Show Christmas Special (S)(R) **1.15** SuperCasino **3.10** Crackers About Christmas (S)(R) **4.00** Kids' Hospital at Christmas (S)(R) **4.50** Make It Big (S)(R) **5.15** Make It Big (S)(R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm (S)(R)

12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **12.45** BBC News (S)

12.50 FILM The Winslow Boy (1999) (U) Edwardian drama, starring Nigel Hawthorne. (S) **2.30** This Is BBC Two

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6
6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.25** Emmerdale **9.10** Coronation Street **11.35** The Xtra Factor **12.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Coming Out **1.40** Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas **2.40** Scorpion **3.35** You've Been Framed at Christmas! **4.35** Take Me Out Celebrity Christmas Special **5.45** FILM: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) (U) **7.40** FILM: Back to the Future Part III (1990) (PG) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. **10.05** The Xtra Factor **11.05** Celebrity Juice Christmas Special **12.05** Release The Hounds: Jingle Hell II **1.05** Viral Tap **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Animal Practice **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10
6.00 Judge Judy **6.20** On the Buses **6.45** Where the Heart Is **8.40** Clash of the Santas **10.40** Wycliffe **11.50** Rosemary & Thyme **12.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.55** A Touch of Frost **4.55** FILM: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) (12) **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC3 SKY: 115 FV: 7
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Live at the Apollo **9.30** FILM: 8 Mile (2002) (15) Drama, starring Eminem. **11.15** Family Guy **1.50** Josh **2.20** Asian Provocateur **2.50** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **3.00** Together **4.00** Close

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9
7.00 Empire of the Seas: How the Navy Forged the Modern World **8.00** Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Jeff Lynne's ELO in Concert **12.00** Mr Blue Sky: The Story of Jeff Lynne and ELO **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** Rollermania: Britain's Biggest Boy Band **2.40** TOTP2: Boy Bands **3.35** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28
6.00 Rules of Engagement **8.05** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Baby Daddy **10.00** The Goldbergs **11.00** Made in Chelsea **12.00** Couples Come Dine with Me **2.05** Melissa & Joey **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** FILM: City of Ember (2008) (PG) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Paul (2011) (15) Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. **11.05** Gogglebox **1.15** The Inbetweeners **2.20** The IT Crowd **3.15** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** Revenge

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14
8.55 Time Team **10.00** Jamie's Family Christmas **10.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems **10.50** FILM: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969) (PG) **1.00** Four in a Bed **3.40** Gordon Ramsay's Festive Home Cooking **4.40** Grand Designs **5.50** 100 Greatest Toys with Jonathan Ross **9.00** It Was Alright in the 1970s **10.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.15** Ramsay's Hotel Hell **1.15** It Was Alright in the 1970s **2.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **3.20** Kirstie's Vintage Gems **3.35** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15
11.00 The Virgin Queen (1955) (U) **1.00** The Dark Crystal (1982) (PG) **2.50** The Rugrats Movie (1999) (U) **4.25** Earthquake (1974) (PG) Disaster movie, starring Charlton Heston. **6.50** Field of Dreams (1989) (PG) **9.00** Insidious: Chapter 2 (2013) (15) Horror sequel, starring Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne. **11.10** Shutter Island (2010) (15) Mystery thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **1.35** The Keep (1983) (18) **3.35** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12
6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Three Men in More Than One Boat **8.00** American Pickers **10.00** Red Bull X-Fighters **11.00** Lizard Lick Towing **12.00** Storage Hunters **12.30** The Money Pit **1.30** Storage Hunters UK **2.30** Storage Hunters **3.30** FILM: Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (1991) (PG) **5.45** FILM: Star Trek: Generations (1994) (PG) **8.00** Red Dwarf **10.00** Crackanory **10.40** Mock the Week **12.00** Not Going Out **12.40** Crackanory **1.20** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **2.20** Mock the Week **2.55** Only Connect **3.30** Hardliners **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106
7.00 Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew **8.00** Game Changers **8.30** Football Freestyler **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **12.00** David Attenborough's Flying Monsters **1.30** Futurama **5.00** Supergirl **6.00** The Flash **7.00** Gordonstoun: A Different Class **8.00** The Simpsons **8.30** Best Christmas Movies Ever **10.00** FILM: Starsky & Hutch (2004) (15) Comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson. **12.00** Britcam: Emergency on Our Streets **2.00** Road Wars **4.00** Stargate Atlantis

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108
6.00 Friday Night Lights **7.00** Seinfeld **10.00** Star Trek: Enterprise **2.00** David Attenborough's Galapagos **3.00** Making Attenborough's Galapagos **4.00** Blue Bloods **7.00** Without a Trace **9.00** Game of Thrones **10.10** The South Bank Show **11.10** Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth **12.50** Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight **2.40** Curb Your Enthusiasm **4.00** Seinfeld **5.00** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

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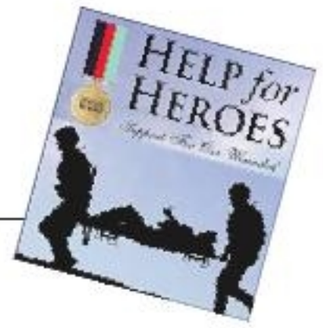

"A Soldier's Silent Night/Merry Christmas, My Friend"

Transcription of "A Soldier's Silent Night":

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this dwelling did live.
As I looked all around, a strange sight to see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking on the mantle, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
Medals and badges, awards of every kind,
a sobering thought came alive in my mind.
This house was different, it was dark, it was dreary.
I had found the home of a soldier, I could see that most clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping silent, alone.
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.
His face was so gentle, room in such disorder,
Not at all how I pictured a soldier.
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, a floor for a bed?
Then I realized the other families that I saw this night
Out there lies the soldiers who are willing to fight.
In the morning around the world, children would play
Grown-ups would celebrate a bright Christmas day
But they all enjoyed freedom, each month through the year,
because of soldiers like the one lying here.

I couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in lands far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye.
and I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.
The soldier awakened, I heard his rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."
The soldier rolled over, and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, and I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still.
as both of us shivered from the cold night's chill.
I didn't want to leave him on that cold, dark night.
This guardian of honour, so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over with a voice soft and pure.
He whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend,
May God bless you this night.

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Sunday December 13th

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **7.40 Match of the Day** (S)(R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** (S) **10.00 Fern Britton Meets Lord Ashdown** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Saving the Forgotten Jews** (S) **1.45 Lifeline** (S) **1.55 Flog It!** (S)(R) **2.45 FILM Toy Story 2 (1999) (U)** Animated sequel, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. (S) **4.15 Songs of Praise** (S) **4.50 The Hunt** How predators hunt in coastal waters. (S)(R) **5.50 BBC News** (S) **6.10 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.20 Countryfile** (S)

7 **7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results** The five remaining couples face their last elimination show before the Grand Final. (S)

8 **8.00 Antiques Roadshow** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Balmoral, and sees archive footage of the royal family. Valuables featured include a collection of medals with a connection to the Titanic. (S)

9 **9.00 The Hunt** Efforts to protect endangered predators, looking at the precarious future for species on five continents, including lions, tigers, polar bears and blue whales. Last in the series. (S)

10 **10.00 BBC News** (S) **10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **10.30 Match of the Day 2** Mark Chapman presents action from today's Premier League matches. (S)

11 **11.40 Citizen Khan** Mr Khan enters the Great Sparkhill Bake Off. (S) (R)

AFTER 12 **12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead** (S) **12.15** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening (S) (R) **6.45 Big Dreams Small Spaces** (S) (R) **7.45 Countryfile** (S)(R) **8.45 An Island Parish: Falklands** (S)(R) **9.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **10.45 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas** (S)(R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.00 FILM Jason and the Argonauts (1963) (U)** (S) **2.45 Family Finders** (S)(R) **3.15 Escape to the Continent** (S)(R) **4.15 Athletics: European Cross Country Highlights** Action from Hyeres, France. (S) **5.20 FILM Nativity! (2009) (U)** Comedy, starring Martin Freeman. (S)

7 **7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** TV chef Ainsley Harriott and presenter Anne Diamond take on the antiques-hunting challenge, travelling in and around London on a search for auction-worthy items. (S)(R)

8 **8.00 Horizon: Tim Peake Special – How to Be an Astronaut** A video diary filmed over two years by Tim Peake. (S)

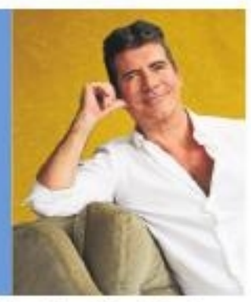
9 **9.00 The Secret History of the British Garden** Monty Don concludes the series by exploring how gardening has developed over the past 100 years. Last in the series. (S)

10 **10.00 Professor Green: Suicide and Me** The rapper explores the circumstances surrounding his father's suicide. Previously shown on BBC3. (S)

11 **11.00 FILM Seven Years in Tibet (1997) (PG)** Fact-based drama, starring Brad Pitt and David Thewlis. (S)

AFTER 12 **1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile** (S)(R) **2.05** Holby City (S)(R) **3.05** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas (S)(R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV



6.00 CITV 9.25 Murder, She Wrote (S) (R) **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (S)(R) **12.30 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.40 FILM Evil Under the Sun (1982) (PG)** Mystery, starring Peter Ustinov. (S) **3.00 The X Factor** The three finalists assemble for the first of this weekend's live Grand Final shows. (S)(R) **5.00 FILM The Scorpion King (2002) (PG)** A warlord resolves to rid the desert of its last remaining tribes, prompting them to seek the aid of a legendary assassin. Fantasy adventure, with Dwayne Johnson and Steven Brand. (S) **6.35 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.45 ITV News** (S)

7 **7.00 Jekyll and Hyde** Part two of two. Robert tries to protect Ravi when he is taken over by the parasite, and sets a trap for Bulstrode in an attempt to rid himself of MIO once and for all. (S)

8 **8.00 The X Factor** Caroline Flack and Olly Murs announce this year's winner in the climax of the singing contest from the SSE Arena, Wembley, with performances from special guests. Last in the series. (S)

9

10 **10.00 The World According to Kenny Everett** Profile of the comedian and DJ, featuring classic clips from his TV shows, never-before-seen archive footage, and and contributions from family, friends and colleagues. (S)

11 **11.00 ITV News;** Weather (S) **11.15 The Chase** Bradley Walsh presents. (S)(R)

AFTER 12 **12.15 Jackpot247 3.00** Motorsport UK (S) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

6.15 The King of Queens Carrie discovers how lonely Spence is. (S)(R) **6.40 Beat the Sun 2015** Five teams attempt to circumnavigate Mont Blanc before sunset. (S) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S) (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** With guests Chris Ramsey and Kim Wilde. (S) **12.30 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **2.00 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **3.00 FILM Marley and Me (2008) (PG)** Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston. (S) **5.20 FILM Aladdin (1992) (PG)** Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams. (S)

7 **7.00 Channel 4 News** (S) **7.30 Britain's Wildest Weather 2015** Documentary featuring footage of unusual weather conditions in the past year shot by members of the public. (S)

8

9 **9.00 Homeland** Allison is interrogated, and Carrie and Astrid search for Quinn. Thriller following a team of CIA agents, starring Claire Danes. (S)

10 **10.00 Gogglebox** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (S)(R)

11 **11.05 FILM Mama (2013) (15)** A couple take in two orphans left alone in the woods, unaware a supernatural force is watching over the children. Horror, starring Jessica Chastain. (S)

AFTER 12 **12.55 Grand Designs Australia** (S)(R) **1.45** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners (S)(R) **2.40** Four in a Bed (S)(R) **3.10** Four in a Bed (S)(R) **3.35** Four in a Bed (S)(R) **4.05** Four in a Bed (S)(R) **4.35** Four in a Bed (S)(R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.35 Football League Tonight** (S)(R) **12.00 Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops** (S)(R) **12.35 FILM The Christmas Shepherd (2014) (12)** Drama, starring Teri Polo. (S) **2.20 FILM Meet the Santas (2005) (PG)** Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. (S) **4.05 FILM Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan (2010) (PG)** Family drama sequel, starring Doris Roberts. (S) **6.00 FILM A Country Christmas Story (2013) (PG)** Premiere. Musical, starring Desiree Ross. (S)

7 **7.35 FILM Scrooge (1970) (U)** A miserly man is taught the error of his ways by a host of spectral visitors. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney and Alec Guinness. (S)

8

9 **9.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

10 **10.00 FILM The Blind Side (2009) (12)** Premiere. A couple take in a homeless teenager and help him fund his education and train to be an American football player. Fact-based drama, with Sandra Bullock. (S)

11

AFTER 12 **12.30 Who Killed Santa: True Crimes** (S)(R) **1.05** SuperCasino **3.10** Danger: Teen Bingers (S)(R) **4.00** House Doctor (S)(R) **4.25** Make It Big (S)(R) **4.50** Make It Big (S)(R) **5.15** Make It Big (S)(R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6
6.00 The Hot Desk: Kelly Clarkson **6.10** Emmerdale **8.45** Coronation Street **11.15** The X Factor **1.20** The Xtra Factor **2.20** Merry Christmas Mr Bean **2.55** FILM: Ella Enchanted (2004) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Anne Hathaway. **4.50** Catchphrase Christmas Special **5.50** FILM: Peter Pan (2003) (PG) Fantasy adventure, with Jeremy Sumpter and Rachel Hurd-Wood. **8.00** FILM: The Nutty Professor (1996) (PG) Comedy remake, starring Eddie Murphy. **10.00** The Xtra Factor **11.00** FILM: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) (15) Comedy, starring Leigh Francis. **12.50** Viral Tap **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Animal Practice **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10
6.00 On the Buses **6.50** Clash of the Santas **8.50** Heartbeat **10.55** A Touch of Frost **12.55** FILM: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) (12) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** Midsomer Murders: Ghosts of Christmas Past **7.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Midsomer Murders **12.05** FILM: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) (PG) **2.25** Wycliffe **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

BBC3 SKY: 115 FV: 7
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride. English teacher Grantt spends £12,000 creating a storybook wedding for his science student bride-to-be Kallie, who yearns for a traditional old-fashioned church. **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** FILM: Enemy of the State (1998) (15) Thriller, starring Will Smith. **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.10** Family Guy **12.30** Josh **1.00** Rent a Cop **1.30** Siblings **3.00** Together **4.00** Close

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9
7.00 Blood and Gold: The Making of Spain with Simon Sebag Montefiore **8.00** Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC **9.00** Dance Rebels: A Story of Modern Dance **10.30** FILM: Easy Money II (2012) (15) Premiere. Crime thriller sequel, starring Joel Kinnaman. **12.05** Storyville: Russia's Toughest Prison – The Condemned **1.25** Treasures of the Anglo-Saxons **2.25** The Mary Rose: A Timewatch Guide **3.25** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28
6.00 Rules of Engagement **6.20** How I Met Your Mother **7.00** Baby Daddy **8.00** Melissa & Joey **9.00** Made in Chelsea **10.00** Hollyoaks **12.30** FILM: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) (PG) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. **2.35** Rude(ish) Tube **3.00** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** FILM: Twilight (2008) (12) Romantic fantasy, starring Kristen Stewart. **9.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** The Inbetweeners **11.35** The IT Crowd **12.40** First Dates **1.40** Gogglebox **2.40** Rules of Engagement **3.25** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14
8.55 Jamie's Family Christmas **10.00** Gadget Man's Guide to Christmas **11.00** River Cottage Christmas **12.05** Gordon Ramsay's Festive Home Cooking **1.10** Jamie's Super Food **1.40** Jamie's Money Saving Meals **2.45** Four in a Bed **5.25** Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Christmas Special **8.00** Car SOS **9.00** The World's Weirdest Weather **10.00** Snowstorm: Britain's Big Freeze **11.05** Britain's Most Extreme Weather **12.10** Ramsay's Hotel Hell **1.05** Car SOS **2.10** Snowstorm: Britain's Big Freeze **3.15** Kirstie's Vintage Gems **3.35** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15
11.00 Love Story (1970) (PG) **1.00** Pom Poko (1994) (PG) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jonathan Taylor Thomas. **3.35** King Kong (1976) (PG) Fantasy adventure remake, starring Jeff Bridges. **6.25** A Knight's Tale (2001) (PG) Medieval comedy adventure, starring Heath Ledger. **9.00** Taken 2 (2012) (12) Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson. **10.50** Repo Men (2010) (18) Sci-fi thriller, starring Jude Law and Forest Whitaker. **1.00** Copycat (1995) (18) **3.30** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12
7.10 Traffic Cops **8.00** Ice Road Truckers **1.00** Storage Hunters **4.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **5.00** The Indestructibles **6.00** Red Bull X-Fighters **7.00** Top Gear **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** Not Going Out **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **1.00** Mock the Week **2.20** QI **2.50** Live at the Electric **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106
6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Monkey Life **9.00** Supergirl **10.00** The Flash **11.00** WWE: Raw **12.00** Bring the Noise **1.00** Futurama **2.30** Modern Family **5.00** The Simpsons **5.30** The Muppets **6.00** Modern Family **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Arrow **9.00** Micky Flanagan's Detour de France **10.00** Stop, Search, Seize **11.00** Road Wars **1.00** Live NFL. **4.30** Road Wars **5.00** Nothing to Declare

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108
6.00 Friday Night Lights **8.00** Seinfeld **9.00** The Petrol Age **11.00** The West Wing **4.00** Without a Trace **6.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** The Affair **10.10** The Last Panthers **11.10** FILM: Manhunt (2013) (15) Documentary about CIA investigations into al-Qaeda. **1.10** The Leftovers **2.20** Curb Your Enthusiasm **4.05** The Guest Wing

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Three goats on the loose in Bordon

A NEW version of the classic fairy tale The Three Billy Goats Gruff will be entertaining youngsters and their parents at The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre in Bordon on Wednesday, December 16.

By **James Richings**

Performed by puppetry specialists Garlic Theatre, the reworking of the classic 19th-century Norwegian story by Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe follows the adventures of the goats and a greedy, evil troll that lives under a bridge.

But unlike the usual tale of the goats defeating the troll, the version coming to the Station Road theatre tells how the troll gets fed up of people throwing rubbish into a stream, depriving him of any fish to eat.

"The show is a one-person story-telling and puppetry show," performer and co-artist director Iklooshar Malara told the Observer.

"The skills of a puppeteer bring the puppets to life as part of the magic of the show.

"And the audience can expect to see a funny and warm-hearted tale of the three goats and a grumpy old troll with a beautiful set and wonderful music – they can join in on the action as the story unfolds."

With the production taking place nine days before Christmas, Iklooshar believes the family fun show will be a big hit with parents as well as children, as the countdown to December 25 draws closer.

The puppet company has been praised by a number of different theatre goers for their enthusiastic and engaging style, which attracts a number of large audiences.

And despite the fact that the puppets take a long time to be designed then made, Iklooshar revealed that creating the puppets is a 'pleasure' due to the audience's warm take towards them.

"Our productions usually take about a year to create as we are also touring shows," Iklooshar revealed.

"The puppets themselves are made from carved wood and sewn leather so they do take quite long to make.

"However it is a real pleasure to create puppets that people love to see up close after the show when the audience is invited to talk to the performer and feed the goats."

She added: "One of the best moments is when a child talks to a puppet.

"This is because you can feel that they are really engaged and hugely excited by the puppet interacting with them on a personal level."

Two shows will take place at the Station Road venue, with productions starting at 2pm and 5pm.

• *Performer and co-artist director Iklooshar Malara will the puppets*

Music at the pub

MUSICIANS T. Roze & Co will be performing at The Badgers Wood pub in Tadley this Saturday, December 12.

The quintet will perform original tracks along with covers at the Wolverton Road venue, with their music covering the soul and RnB genres.

This is a free event that will start at 8.30pm.

Book of Genesis

ONE of the longest running Genesis tribute bands 'Book of Genesis Band' will be at the Central Studios in Basingstoke on Saturday, December 12.

The gig at the Cliddesden Road venue is the last gig the six musicians will be doing this year, before they embark on a mammoth UK tour next year.

On the night, audience members will be able to hear well-known hits from Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel, complete with costumes, masks and acting.

It will start at 8pm and tickets cost £15, or £13 for concessions.

Buddy's legacy lives on

By **James Richings**

THE rock and roll 1950s are bought back to life as tribute group Buddy Holly & The Cricketers make their way to The Haymarket from Friday, December 18 to Saturday, December 19.

Consisting of Jim Newman as the main man Buddy, bassist Andy Ingram, Kai Henderson on the guitar, Jack Bas on the keyboard and drummer Darren Barnes, the five full-time musicians have travelled across the UK, showcasing the best of Buddy's and The Crickets' work.

And with this being the final two shows of the tour, the five friends hope that they can end the one-month run on a high.

"We are all fans of Buddy's music in general and his influence even now is apparent as a lot of music seems to be shifting back to a much more '50s style," drummer Darren told the Observer.

"And none of the current line-up have played at The Haymarket before so it is really exciting to be there for two nights and to finish the whole tour there."

"The best thing about playing to an audience that appreciates the music is the energy that we get from them.

"The show is very much a two-way thing and the more interaction we get, the more we all enjoy the show."

• *Jim Newman performing as Buddy Holly*

Despite the tribute show bringing joy to thousands of people all over the UK, the history of Buddy's short career is very tragic.

Born Charles Hardin Holley but nicknamed Buddy by his mother, he became one of the most iconic musicians of the decade as his self-written material, and the music being played by his band The Crickets, dominating radio stations across the US and beyond.

He recorded over 100 songs during a 10-year career, which even included being an opening act for Elvis.

However the 'Peggy Sue' and 'Everyday' singer, along with fellow musicians Ritchie Valnes and The Big Bopper were all killed in a tragic plane crash in 1959.

The fatal event has since been called 'The Day the Music Died', and was the inspiration behind Don McLean's international hit 'American Pie', which was released in 1971.

"Buddy's recording and writing was prolific during his very short career, but at the time he was the original rock and roller," Darren said.

"We like to think he would have carried on trying to push boundaries, and who knows where music would have gone."

Both shows at the Wote Street theatre start at 7.30pm, with tickets costing £18.

Black Market

FIVE-PIECE covers band Black Market will be performing at The Wheatsheaf in Basingstoke on Saturday, December 19.

The Reading-based group arrive at the Stockbridge Road venue performing hits from the likes of The Black Keys, Imagine Dragons, Foo Fighters and more.

This is a free event that starts at 9pm.

The Triple Aces

THE Triple Aces will be performing at The Swan Inn in Alton this evening, Thursday, December 10.

The quartet, who perform at the High Street venue every fourth Tuesday, will replicate some of the most popular rock tunes from the '50s to the present day.

The gig starts at 8pm and is free.

Christmas show

A CHRISTMAS variety show will be at The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre in Bordon on Friday, December 17.

'A Victorian Christmas' is a family fun show that will consist of Christmas songs, plays and education, as audience members will have a look at what Christmas was like during the Victorian era.

It starts at 7.30pm.

Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Suffocate (7)
5 Turkish official (5)
8 Shortly (4)
9 American game (8)
10 Large character (7,6)
13 Half (4)
14 Ponder (4)
17 Cameramen (13)
19 Ambitious person (8)
20 Lend (4)
21 Aspects (5)
22 Speak to (7)

Quick Clues Down

2 Lunatic (6)
3 Can be stretched (7)
4 Including (9)
5 Fragment (5)
6 US west coast port (7)
7 Enticed (7)
11 Thrashed (9)
12 Revokes (7)
13 Bent forward (7)
15 Learned person (7)
16 Reveries (6)
18 Man-eating monsters (5)

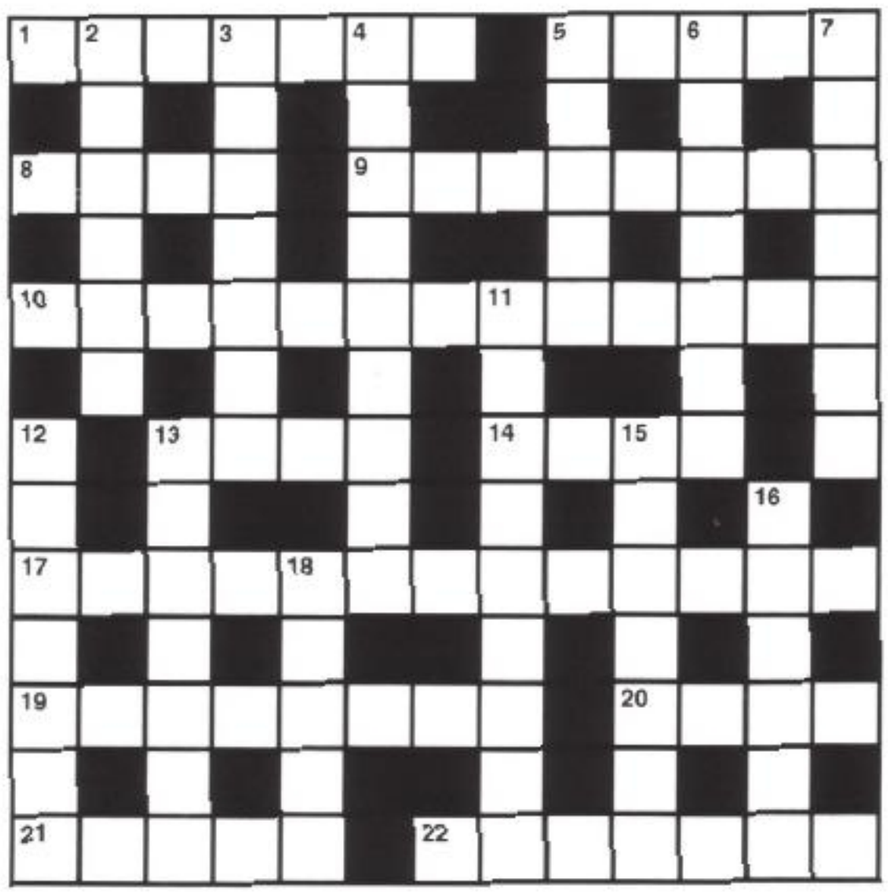
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Are in a cosy place, as close as possible (7)
5 Pipes that begin with a bath (5)
8 Spirit shown after biting the dust (4)
9 Cured by taking half the medicine in a pipe (8)
10 Can Latin start on the other side of the ocean? (13)
13 An insular jumble of lies (4)
14 Piano teacher hides part of the keyboard (4)
17 Lists the Italian river on nearly full measure (13)
19 Little scientist, to right the wrong, should find food
20 Grope for the sole prize? (4)
21 Unhappily put the slogan in a cunning framework (5)
22 Take less; it isn't worth much (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Goes the wrong way round or makes mistakes (6)
3 Circles round at grades (7)
4 Rare stems for flags (9)
5 At the different Greek character (5)
6 A bit of a brush with a broken blister (7)
7 Cocktail on a motor bike? (7)
11 Dons enrol for the capital life in England (9)
12 Swears at trials (7)
13 I note well that the road is badly made for the engine (9)
15 Though out of order, the lute with fun can be melodious (7)
16 Gives oath that heals round head of sore (6)
18 All for oriental warning light (5)



Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

4	6	2	1					
		3			4	7		8
5				9	2		4	
		4		1			8	2
		6	9		3	5		
1	9			4		6		
	2		6	3				9
7		1	8			2		
					7	8	5	1

9		7				2		5
	8						6	
	3		9		7		8	
		6		4		1		
	2		5		6		4	
		8		2		5		
	1		3		9		7	
	5						1	
6		4				3		9

7				1				
2		8						
5	1				3			
		3	2			6	7	
	9		5		4		8	
	7	1			8	5		
			4				5	6
						9		8
				6				2

This week's solutions

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Smother 5 Pasha 8 Anon 9 Baseball 10 Capital letter 13 Semi 14 Muse 17 Photographers 19 Aspirant 20 Loan 21 Sides 22 Address

Down: 2 Maniac 3 Tensile 4 Embracing 5 Piece 6 Seattle 7 Allured 11 Lambasted 12 Repeals 13 Stooped 15 Scholar 16 Dreams 18 Ogres

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Nearest 5 Tubes 8 Grit 9 Remedied 10 Transatlantic 13 Isle 14 Note 17 Tablespoonful 19 Scavenge 20 Fish 21 Sadly 22 Useless

Down: 2 Errors 3 Ratings 4 Streamers 5 Theta 6 Bristle 7 Sidecar 11 Londoners 12 Attests 13 Inboard 15 Tunnel 16 Curses 18 Every

What's on | LISTINGS

Thu, Dec 10, 7.15pm
Corn Exchange, Newbury

ROH: THE ROYAL OPERA LIVE: CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/PAGALIACCI

These two short Italian operas are each regarded as the composers' masterpiece, and are brought together in a new staging by award-winning director Damiano Michieletto.

Thu, Dec 10 – Sun, Jan 3
The Anvil, Basingstoke

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK PANTOMIME

When Dame Trott sends her son Jack to market, little do they know that swapping Daisy the cow for a handful of beans will result in an overgrown beanstalk, a hungry giant, wicked henchman and fabulous golden treasure.

Fri, Dec 11, 7.30pm
The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon

LITTLE RED AND THE THREE WOLVES

Scarlett leaves her tiny village behind and heads for the bright lights of the big city, but something follows her, something big and hungry. Could there be wolves in the city? She sees them everywhere but no-one else seems to notice; perhaps because they wear three-piece suits and smoke cigars. Oh no, these are not the wolves you find in the forest, these are very, very different and very, very dangerous...

Sat, Dec 12, 8pm
Central Studio, Basingstoke

BOOK OF GENESIS BAND

The Book of Genesis faithfully recreates the musical brilliance of England's finest rock band covering the Gabriel years and some of the best songs from the Collins period too. The band covers a wide repertoire from the first album onwards but focused on the progressive rock era up until Steve Hackett left the band.

Sat, Dec 12, 9pm
Old London Apprentice, Newbury

FUBAR

Fubar are a rock/pop covers band from Berkshire and play a wide range of songs from the 60's to modern day.

Saturday, December 12, 8pm
Corn Exchange, Newbury

GERARD AND THE WATCHMAN

Music to warm your heart on a winter's evening from one of the most widely praised acts on the UK's alternative folk scene. Expect stunningly beautiful and haunting songs from this four piece as they flit from guitar to banjo, double bass to drums and mandolin to percussion. Dave Gerard's glorious voice is the ideal vehicle for his poetic, beguiling lyrics.

Sun, Dec 13 4pm
Northbrook Street, Newbury

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT: LANTERN PROCESSION

Fast becoming a tradition within Newbury, the 6th Festival of Light: Lantern Procession gathers the community together to share in this stunning winter outdoor event. Join us from 4pm as the Lantern bearers meet and start to light their lamps, with the procession starting from 4.30pm on Northbrook Street, and parading to Market Place in centre of Newbury Town Centre. Why not come along to one of our Free Lantern making Workshops, or just come along on the day and enjoy the spectacle and atmosphere, as hundreds of lights process through the streets of Newbury.

Sun, Dec 13, 3pm
Corn Exchange, Newbury

BOLSHOI LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER

This beloved holiday classic will enchant the whole family with its fairy-tale setting and Tchaikovsky's timeless score. The Bolshoi's version of The Nutcracker has a unique and beautiful sense of romance, danced by the heroic Denis Rodkin as the courageous prince and the magical Anna Nikulina as Marie.

Wed, Dec 16 – Sat, Dec 19
Corn Exchange, Newbury

PRINCESS AND THE PEA

Once upon a stormy night, while the wind and the rain were howling outside, the Royals were all tucked up warm in bed. Suddenly there came a knock at the door and a very wet, very untidy girl was brought inside...
Become part of this playful and comic story of a prince in search of a 'real' princess, a clever queen, a girl who is not as she first appears, a tower of mattresses and of course a tiny pea.
This quirky and inventive adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's bedtime tale is played out among sheets and blankets with puppets, objects and dreamlike projections.

Wed, Dec 16, 2pm
The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon

THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF

An interactive family treat with a delightful festive twist.
The classic fairytale of Three Billy Goats Gruff is magically brought to life through Swedish carols, live music and beautifully crafted puppets
What happens on Christmas Eve when the Troll is fishing for his dinner...? Join garlic Theatre by this little stream in Sweden to find out!
This is n ideal first theatrical experience for the very young.

Wed, Dec 17.15pm
Corn Exchange, Newbury

THE ROYAL BALLET LIVE

Loosely based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it opens with the Christmas festivities of little Clara and her family and progresses through a sequence of dreams and enchantments that take Clara on her magical journey to the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of the Sweets.

Thu, Dec 17, 7.30pm
The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

A Victorian Christmas is a fun and festive celebration of the Yuletide our ancestors would have known. Following highly successful tours every winter since 2011, acclaimed historical entertainment company Blast From The Past invite you to join them once again in 2015 for an evening of music, song, stories and drama from the time of Dickens and Hardy.

Thu, Dec 17, 8pm
The Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury

MANDOLINQUENTS CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

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New Nissan on sale next month

AFTER winning the International Pick-up of the Year Award earlier this year, the brand new Nissan NP300 Navara will be available to buy in the UK from January.

By **James Richings**

Building on Nissan's 80-year pick-up heritage, the NP300 Navara comes in five trim grades – Visia, Acenta, Acenta+, N-Connecta and Tekna, priced from £18,376.

It is available in either a double cab or a king cab design with a 2.3-litre dCi engine, and Navaro comes in two or four-wheel drive with a six-speed manual or seven-speed automatic transmission.

One of the new safety features in the truck is the forward emergency braking on all-double cab models, with the pick-up also having driver, passenger, side and knee airbags.

The model also introduces a host of new features, which includes a five-link rear suspension for the double cab model and a load bed 67mm longer than the previous model.

James Wright, managing director of Nissan Motor Great Britain, said: "The NP300 Navara is a strong product offer in terms of innovative technology, superior on-road and off-road capabilities, engine performance and payload capacity.

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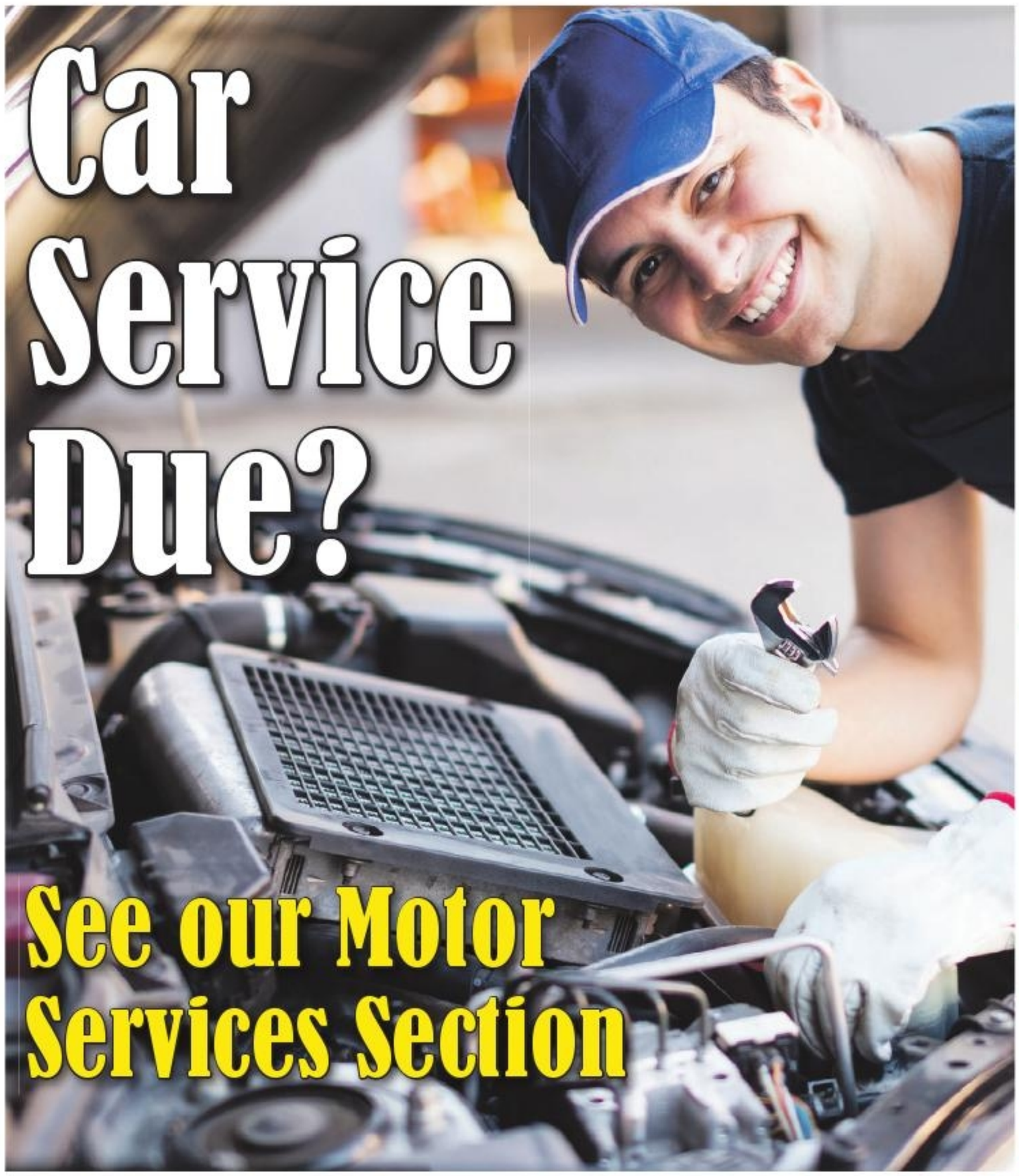

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FLUVAL corner tropical fish tank. Many extras £60 Tel: 0118 981225

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JESSOPS model 36070 telescope. Focal length 360mm Dia 70mm. Coated lens as new. Needs assembling. Offers over £15 Tel: 07802 730219

SQUARE bevel edge mirror. Metal surround £20 ono. Tel 01635 827560

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VINTAGE Pyrex mixing bowl. Blue glass 10" diameter. Other 1960's Pyrex available £8 Tel: 01635 962442

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SAMSUNG TV 40" very good condition £15 (Reading) Tel: 01189 456853Performance 6" bench grinder, new £20 Tel: 01420 872297

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OVAL pine table 54x39. Extends to 39x70. Plus 4 chairs £70 ono. Tel: 01256 462172

ONE pair pale pink lined curtains size 45x52 £4 ono Tel: 01256 462172

ONE pair of mens Wellington boots. Dunlop size 11 £5 ono Tel: 01256 462172

TEAK oval extending table. 180. Immaculate condition. 4 chairs, resistant cover. Buyer collects. After 6pm £100 ono. Tel: 01189 816691

OAK coffee table with shelf. Good condition £30 Tel: 01256 327081

GENTS Tuxedo. Size 42 chest long. Like new. Hardly worn. Cost £100. Will accept £50 Tel: 01256 414955Tea trolley. White folding. Never been used £10 Tel: 01256 414955.

KITCHEN Pine table with two chairs. Excellent condition £25. Tel: 0118 9713568

EPSON Wi-Fi printer XP202. Very good condition, hardly used £15 Tel: 0118 9713568

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RED ¾ length coat by George. Like new £5 Tel: 01635 867144

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EIGHT in one mini cooker, used once. £20 Tel: 01256 411741

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SIX wall plates. Very decorative £18 Tel: 01189713675

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Bison sweep rivals aside in four point weekend

Town urged to build on away win

MICHAEL Gilkes has challenged his Basingstoke Town side to go on a winning run after claiming his first win as manager.

A dramatic late winner from on-loan defender Dom Hyam helped clinch a priceless three points at Bishop's Stortford on Saturday.

Victory was just the Dragons' second in the National League South all season and their first away from home following an awful start to the campaign for the division's basement side.

And after recovering from a Blues leveller 15 minutes from time to claim a 2-1 win, Gilkes admitted that he would have been disappointed to have left the ProKit UK Stadium with just a single point.

He said: "I'm feeling more relief than anything else because I've always known that we were capable of getting a result.

"It's a very positive result and it's always good to score in the last minute, so we'll definitely take it.

"The more you go without a win, the more you pressure yourself and I would like to think that we deserved all three points – so if we'd drawn I would have been very disappointed."

Gilkes singled out Reading loanee Hyam for praise following a goal on his league debut for the club, although the Town boss felt a strong team performance was the catalyst for the result.

He added: "Reading have done us a massive favour by allowing Dom to come here.

"We already know what he's about and he's definitely made us a better team and so I'm really pleased for him to get on the score sheet.

"It's important that we go on a run now to move up the league, because the higher up the league you get, the luckier you get."

BASINGSTOKE Bison dismantled the reigning English Premier League (EPL) champions on their way to another perfect four-point weekend.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

The Herd tore Telford Tigers to pieces in Saturday's 7-0 win at the Basingstoke Arena on a night where Bison legend Tony Redmond had his jersey retired by the club.

And the Stampede continued their rampage 24 hours later to register an impressive 4-1 victory at Manchester Phoenix that moved them back to the top of the table.

Bison went into the weekend's clash with Telford on the back of a record 12 consecutive wins on home ice and never looked in danger of being stopped from making it 13 after breaking the deadlock through Ciaran Long on 13:24.

And three minutes into the start of the second period, the Birmingham-born forward grabbed his second of the game with a huge wind up shot off of a Joe Baird pass.

After making two great saves in quick succession, Tigers goaltender Samuel Gospel was finally beaten on 30:58 by Alan Lack to make it 3-0.

Top scoring forward Tomas Karpov then demonstrated some clinical finishing to grab a brace either side of the buzzer as Doug Sheppard's side started to turn the screw.

Bison keeper Jon Baston then capped a superb debut with an amazing save as Telford drove to the net with a three-on-two to preserve a 27-shot shutout in the absence of the injured Tomas Hiadlovsky.

And the hosts rubbed salt into the wounds of the visitors on 46:24 as Long claimed his hat-trick, before Alan Lack claimed his second 8:15 from time to round off a superb night.

Following such a good performance, there was always a danger of Bison taking their foot off the gas on their visit to Deeside on Sunday night.

But Basingstoke demonstrated their title credentials once again in Manchester with captain Aaron Connolly finding the net on 8:03 to give his side the lead.

And the skipper linked up well with fellow British forward line member Shaun Thompson four minutes later to make it 2-0 to the Herd.

Karpov then extended the gap on 33:22 with a trademark finish, before watching on as Michal Satek beat Baston less than a minute later to pull one back for the Phoenix.

But that was as good as it would get for the home fans as Slovak forward Rene Jarolin grabbed his first away goal for Basingstoke on the powerplay on 38:34, to set up a comfortable final period for the visitors.

Basingstoke will face one of their title rivals this weekend when they welcome Peterborough Phantoms to Planet Ice on Saturday evening in the week's only game.

• Basingstoke Bison forward Ciaran Long grabbed a hat-trick in his side's 7-0 win over Telford Tigers (picture by grantkingphotography.com)

Sport Bites

Familiar feeling

RUGBY: Basingstoke RFC have now gone nine games without picking up a single point following yet another loss at title-hunting London Cornish on Saturday.

Rock bottom 'Stoke actually took an early lead in the tie after kicking a penalty with their first attack to break an embarrassing run of failing to score in their previous three London Two South West games.

That would be as good as it would get for the visitors however, as they were convincingly defeated 51-8 at Roehampton after adding to their tally with an unconverted try at the start of the second half.

A hat-trick from Tom Jeffreys, a brace from Stefan Duda and tries from Ben Levers and Josh Allison ensured that Gareth Hatherley-Hurford's side remain on -5 points, following successive relegations and a points deduction.

Basingstoke are next in action on Saturday, when they will travel to mid-table London Exiles.

At the summit

FOOTBALL: Basingstoke Town Ladies moved above Milton Keynes City to the top of the league following a crushing away win on Sunday.

A hat-trick from Katie Randell led the way as Town dismantled Bracknell Town Ladies 5-0 in the Southern Region Women's Football League (SRWFL) Premier Division.

Ayala Truelove and Megan James also found the net in a storming win at Larges Lane – with the result ensuring that 'Stoke are now three points ahead of their nearest rivals with a game in hand.

Basingstoke are next in action this Sunday when they host Woodley United in the league.

Winning ways

HOCKEY: Basingstoke Hockey Club men's firsts recovered from the previous week's 4-1 humbling at rivals Bournemouth firsts in perfect style on Saturday to claim their seventh league win of the season.

'Stoke easily dispatched Reigate Priory firsts 4-0 on their return to Down Grange in the Hampshire Surrey 1 table to move six points behind the leaders.

Ben Jubin and Grant Rouse both found the net twice apiece to ensure that Basingstoke bounced back to form ahead of Saturday's home cash with Wanderers firsts.

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Inside: Bison go top with four-point weekend | Gilkes' reaction to Town result | Points but no victory for Basingstoke RFC

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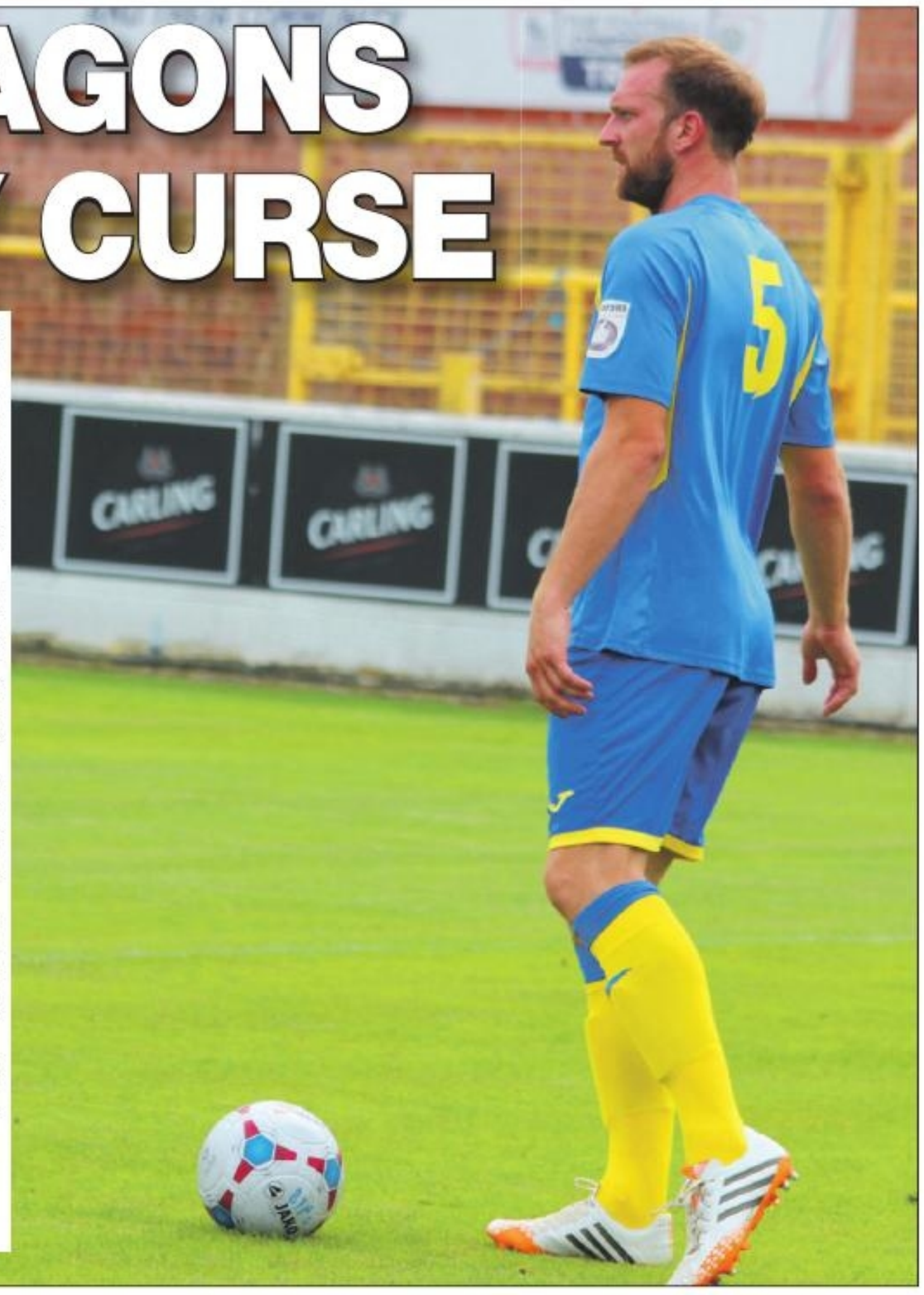

BASINGSTOKE Town finally claimed their first win away from home in the league at the 10th time of asking on Saturday.

By **Christian Wilson**
christian@observergroup.co.uk

A dramatic winner by on-loan defender Dom Hyam in the fourth minute of injury time ended Town's long wait in a 2-1 win at Bishop's Stortford.

The Dragons had looked like they would be denied the three points on their travels yet again after seeing a Jay Gasson goal cancelled out by the hosts 13 minutes from time.

But Hyam's late heroics ensured that new manager Michael Gilkes claimed 'Stoke's second win of the National League South campaign in his first league match in charge.

Victory also saw the league's basement side close the gap to safety to six points following defeats for fellow strugglers Margate and Havant and Waterlooville – who beat Basingstoke 2-1 in the FA Trophy seven days earlier.

That defeat in Gilkes' first game in charge saw the Dragons finally end their embarrassing four-game wait for a goal, but they showed no signs of building on that early on at the ProKit UK Stadium as Bishop's Stortford dominated.

And the hosts were unlucky not to go in front in the eighth minute, as Elliott Buchanan met Dymon Labonne's cross at the near post, but with keeper Aaron Howe beaten, could only fire a volley against the woodwork.

Howe was then called into action soon afterwards to parry Alli Abdullahi's 20-yarder, before Blues skipper George Allen then went close with a far post header.

After starting slowly however, Basingstoke gradually started to get a foothold into the match and forced Stortford keeper Tom Lovelock into a series of stops to deny Liam Enver-Marum and Lloyd Macklin.

And the visitors took the lead in the 38th minute with stand-in captain Gasson capitalising on the windy conditions to head a James Harper corner into the net.

Town carried on their momentum into the second half and were extremely unlucky not to double their lead before the hour mark as top scorer Chris Flood came agonisingly close three times in three minutes.

The striker firstly saw his low shot blocked by Lovelock, before smashing the post with a long-range drive on 57 minutes, and then sending a looping header against the bar seconds later.

Basingstoke were made to pay for those misses 20 minutes later as Blues striker Elliott Buchanan fired home via the inside of the post from the edge of the box after Morgan Ferrier's effort had crashed off the bar and fallen straight into his path.

But the visitors were not to be denied a deserved win after Harper's late hanging free kick caused disarray in the opponent's six-yard box, with Reading loanee Hyam bundling the ball over the line to seal the three points.

And Basingstoke made it two wins in the space of three days on Tuesday as they dispatched Blackfield and Langley 1-0 to progress to the last eight of the Hampshire Senior Cup.

Striker George Hallahan scored the game's only goal on his return to the side, with Town even affording to miss a second half Manny Williams penalty as they came out on top.

Basingstoke are next in league action this Saturday, when they will host Dartford at The Camrose.

· Basingstoke Town defender Jay Gasson scored the opener for the Dragons

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